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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the idea of privatizing the Commonwealth Health Center?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL

A Peace Memorial Day ceremony pays tribute to 14 DPS officers and firefighters.

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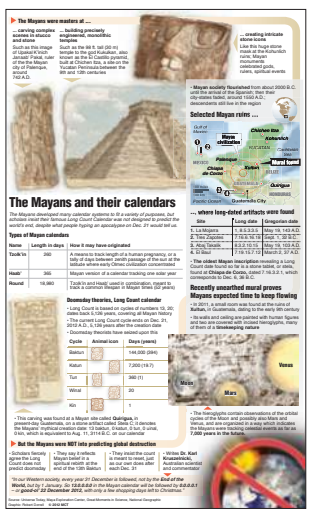
FOCUS


The Mayans and their calendars
Types of Mayan calendars
Doomsday theories, Long Count calendar
Recently unearthed mural proves Mayans expected time to keep flowing
Not the Mayans were NOT into predicting global destruction

Newly discovered wall writings show Mayan calendars that go well beyond 2012.

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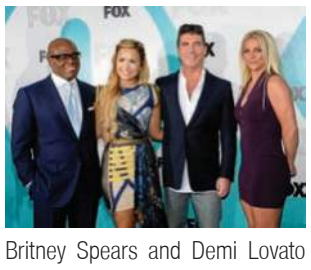

Britney Spears and Demi Lovato are joining the judging panel on "The X Factor."

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Status of CNMI permanent residents remains in limbo

»'We don't want parole, but permanent status to stay and be able to travel freely'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Victoria Dalit, 81, has worked most of her adult life on Saipan since 1975 and is among those foreigners who were granted a so-called "CNMI permanent resident status" in 1985.

Unfortunately, the federal government does not recognize that status, so three years after the federal government took over the CNMI immigration system, Dalit and others like here remain in limbo, with no clear resolution of what will happen to them.

Worse, it appears as if the federal government is depending on natural attrition to solve this immigration conundrum. Dalit said that many like her have already passed away, are now near death, or have already left the islands without being granted an immigration status under federal law.

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Japanese investors sending experts to Pagan

»To gather data that will support plan for pozzolan mining, shipment of tsunami debris

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Japanese investors who recently visited the CNMI are sending engineers and other technical experts to Pagan as early as next week to study the place and gather data that will help them craft a formal plan to mine pozzolan on the island where they also plan to bring and recycle tsunami debris from at least two Japan prefectures, Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said.

"They will study everything including the logistics—shipping, the kind of infrastructure they need to bring tsunami de-

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Sgt. Jonathan R. Cadenas observes the operations of a fuel line during a fuel drop at Tinian's West Field during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 on May 15. Cadenas is with the Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, bulk fuel specialists, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. ***See related story and photos on Page 9***

LANCE CPL GAGE KARWICK

'China is future's most important market'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

- Outbound travelers projected at 100 million in 2016
- Community urged to support Saipan Air

Although Japan continues to be CNMI's biggest and most important tourism market, the number of Chinese outbound travelers has steadily increased through the years and is projected to reach 100 million by 2016, making it an important market that the Commonwealth cannot afford to ignore, according to Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

"Today, anywhere you go in the world, you will run into Chinese tourists and every government is courting the Chinese tourists," said Tan, speaking to members of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday.

Tan said that China is arguably the fastest-growing tourist market in the world. From only 10.3 million outbound travelers in 2000, it has increased to 70 million in a span of 12 years,

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CLARISSA V. DAVID
Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan addresses members of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Expungement, $15 hotel fee bills now head to Fitial. PAGE 2
Three allegedly attack man in front of his family. PAGE 3

Local

Expungement, $15 hotel fee bills now head to governor after House OK

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Without further discussion and by a vote of 9-7, a bill that would expunge certain criminal records passed the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon.

The House also passed a bill assessing a $15 fee among tourists or transient occupants of hotels and similar facilities in the CNMI, generating some $6 million to help tourism programs and projects.

House Bill 17-52, or "The Restoration of Rights and Expungement Act of 2010," as well as House Bill 17-290, or the environmental and tourism promotion fee bill, now head to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), right before announcing the passage of the expungement bill, said he voted "yes" because he wants to give a second chance to people who committed certain types of crimes when they were young and have since changed for the better.

By having this bill signed into law, certain criminal records of some members of the community will be erased.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of the expungement bill, said this measure will help people who have been rehabilitated to "go on with their lives" to become better citizens and be able to find a job or accepted to schools.

"This is not a blanket expungement. People still have to petition the court and go through a judicial process," Torres told Saipan Tribune.

The bill, however, will not grant a right of expungement or restoration of rights to sex offenders; those who have more than one conviction for a violent crime or offense that is punishable by five years or more; and those convicted of any heinous crime such as murder, rape, aggravated sexual assault, or any other conviction deemed by the CNMI Superior Court and the Office of the Attorney General as justification to forfeit a person's right for expungement or restoration of rights.

The eight-page bill has been bouncing between the House and Senate since Torres introduced it in March 2010. Lawmakers supporting and opposing the bill have debated the bill several times, but not yesterday.

Those who voted "yes" to the expungement bill were House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Reps. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Torres, and the speaker.

The seven who voted "no" were Reps. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Reps. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) left the session and were unable to vote, while House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) were excused from the session.

The bill states that "many law abiding citizens of the Commonwealth are unfairly burdened and unduly prejudiced for life by the stigma and the record associated with a criminal offense committed in their past."

"These citizens lose employment opportunities and suffer other harsh consequences, even though they have already been punished, have already repaid society for their past mistake, and have been rehabilitated as good citizens," the bill says.

Under the bill, a person convicted of a crime in the CNMI may petition the court for a restoration of rights in the case of a felony or to expunge all records in case of a misdemeanor under two circumstances.

One, in cases involving a conviction for a felony after least five years have passed since the CNMI Superior Court, Office of Adult Probation Supervision and the Board of Parole have all terminated, lost, or relinquished supervision or jurisdiction of the person.

In this case, the only rights restored will be the right to vote and the right to government employment, to run for and hold public office, to serve on juries and to serve as a notary public.

It does not include the right to possess or transport any firearm or to carry a concealed weapon.

Two, in cases involving a conviction for a misdemeanor, petty or traffic offense, after at least three years have passed since the CNMI Superior Court, Office of Adult Probation Supervision, and the Board of Parole have all terminated, lost, or relinquished supervision or jurisdiction of the person.

$15 fee

The House also passed yesterday afternoon Cabrera's bill, as amended by the Senate, assessing a $15 environmental and tourism promotion fee among tourists or "transient" occupants of hotels, lodging houses, condominiums, and similar facilities in the CNMI.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio and MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce answered questions from House members regarding the bill.

Tenorio said the bill, once enacted, will generate some $6 million that will be used to improve and fund tourism programs and projects.

However, regardless of the total fees collected, Rota and Tinian's share of that fee will remain the same at $200,000 each island annually, to be used for charter flight tourism incentives and promotional programs.

Funds derived from the $15 fee will be deposited into a revolving fund administered by the Department of Finance and remitted to MVA. These funds will then be used to build, equip, improve, and maintain projects, agencies, and facilities promoting recreation and tourism.

Tenorio told lawmakers that the original law charging a $15 travel fee among tourists from non-U.S. destinations was found to be non-compliant with federal laws. The latest bill amends Public Law 17-29 as amended by P.L. 17-58 or the Tourism Incentive Program. These two laws require the airlines to collect the fees.

But Tenorio said any "head tax" on international travel falls under the jurisdiction of the federal government. He said MVA and the administration asked the Legislature to amend the laws.

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PEACE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

CNMI pays tribute to 14 DPS officers, firefighters

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Acting DPS commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro delivers his welcoming remarks at the Peace Memorial Day ceremony held at the DPS compound in Susupe.

The CNMI, Department of Public Safety, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority held a Peace Memorial Day ceremony yesterday to pay tribute to 14 DPS officers and firefighters who lost their lives or who were injured or disabled while in the line of duty.

The DPS Tactical Response Enforcement Team offered a 21-gun salute for the 14 officers after families and officers presented candles and wreaths at the DPS monument.

In his remarks, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the community has been privileged to have enforcement officers who serve "proudly and bravely, even if it meant having risk as a constant companion."

"This Peace Memorial Day, we reflect with humility on the lives of our comrades and salute their extraordinary sacrifice in the line of duty. To the families, the Commonwealth will not forget their service and we will remain forever grateful," Inos said.

He said the tribute will ring hollow unless the people recommit themselves to do whatever they can to support the men and women who keep the society more lawful and lives more secure, to help them as enforcers, and to keep them from becoming victims.

"Every day that our officers put on the badge, bid their family goodbye, and walk out the door, they do so knowing that they might be called upon to step between good and evil, often at the risk of great personal cost," Inos said.

In his welcoming remarks, acting DPS commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro said the Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week ceremonies are reminders of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

"Our law enforcement officers stand watch on the front lines and make our villages and islands safer. Every day you carry out your duties with courage and commitment and continue to put yourselves in harm's way," Ogumoro said.

The DPS "fallen comrades" include police captains Justino T. Arriola and Tommy Alexander, police officers Abraham S. Quitugua, Gilbert M. Taisacan, Wilgene T. Lieto, and Joe Charfauros, police sergeant Julian A. Manglona, resident director John T. Barcinas, and fire fighters Ernie T. Dela Cruz and Joaquin M. Camacho.

Those who were disabled or injured in the line of duty were police sergeantAntonio SN. Muna, and police officers Marvin S. Camacho, Jose Cepeda, and Victor M. Hocog. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fitial: OIA approves redirection of $3.5M CIP money to CUC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs approved his request to redirect $3.5 million in capital improvement project funds to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., but the *Saipan Tribune* has yet to obtain from either the Fitial administration or OIA a copy of OIA's actual letter as of press time.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor received the letter yesterday.

Fitial wrote a revised letter to Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony M. Babauta on April 16, reducing the amount of CIP funds he wants redirected—from $4.35 million to $3.5 million—as well as to change the "redirected use" from paying utility bills and paying the salaries of doctors and nurses to that of helping CUC comply with a consent order. That letter "supersedes" his Feb. 18 letter.

The administration said yesterday these redirected funds will be used to assist CUC in complying with requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to meet consent order requirements.

The funds are from prior grant awards—from grant years 2006-2008 associated with the Puerto Rico dump closure project.

In total, the CNMI has transferred in excess of $16.8 million in grant funds to CUC over the past several years.

"By transferring grant funds from the central government to CUC, we are able to assist them in meeting these legal mandates and improve the protection of our environment," Fitial said in a statement. "Additionally, by using federal grant funds to meet these requirements, we are able to ensure that this financial burden is not passed on to the consumers."

The governor added that the administration is working with CUC wherever possible to use innovative programs to reduce high utility costs.

OIA earlier said that CIP funds "cannot be used for operational expenses of the CNMI government."

Fitial's first request letter wanted to use over $4.35 million in redirected CIP funds to pay for public school and hospital "utility costs," "housing allotments for doctors and nurses," and hospital "payroll allotments."

The CNMI has $52 million in unspent CIP funds.

At $52 million, the CNMI has the highest amount of unspent CIP funds among territories.

3 allegedly attack man in front of his family

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Three men armed with a crowbar, a hammer, and a long rebar attacked a man in front of his horrified wife, a former police officer, and their three young children inside their house in As Lito on May 5.

Police said the victim, Tommy Tamangmad, sustained injuries in the forearms, legs, abdomen, and back.

Two of the suspects, identified as Joseph Gimed, 55, and his son Alvin Sangmow, 33, were arrested Monday afternoon in Koblerville. The third suspect remains unidentified.

Gimed and Sangmow were taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, criminal trespass, and disturbing the peace. Their bail was set at $6,500 cash each.

Police detective Catherine Pangelinan stated in her report that two police officers responded to a disturbance at the residence of former police officer Melinda Villanueva in As Lito on May 5 at 9:30pm.

Pangelinan said the officers met with Villanueva, who had called the police, and her husband Tamangmad. The officers learned that the couple and their three children were inside the living room and about to sleep when three men entered the house and attacked Tamangmad.

Tamangmad told the officer that he was drinking with other people earlier that evening at a house in Dandan. When he had enough, he walked from Dandan down to his house in As Lito.

Not long after reaching his house, the three suspects came to the front door. He identified the two suspects as Gimed and Sangmow, who were with him during the drinking session in Dandan. The three suspects, armed with a hammer, a crowbar and a long rebar, began hitting him in different areas of his body. Tamangmad ran to the back of the house to avoid further attack.

In her statement to police, Villanueva said they were getting ready to sleep at 9:30pm when she heard a car with a loud muffler drive fast to the front of the house. The suspects were yelling out that they're going to kill Tamangmad.

When Tamangmad opened the door, the three suspects began attacking him. With the children crying and shouting, Villanueva yelled at the suspects to stop and leave the house.

When Tamangmad managed to push the suspects out of the front door, Villanueva carried her baby and told her two other children to run and follow her out of the house. She then stopped passersby and used their cell phone to call 911.

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Cop allegedly threatens his son, in-law with machete

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police sergeant Vicente O. Tagabuel was arrested on Sunday afternoon after he allegedly threatened his son and daughter-in-law with a machete along a roadway leading to Obyan Beach.

Tagabuel, 53, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $10,000 cash.

At the bail hearing, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman learned that there is an outstanding $5,000 bench warrant against Tagabuel for not appearing at a status conference related to a 2003 criminal case. That case also involves a machete.

The sergeant is assigned to the Department of Public Safety's summons and warrant office.

In this latest case, police officers responded to a roadway leading to Obyan Beach on Sunday at 1:16pm after receiving a call about a disturbance.

Police detective Melissa Bauleong stated in her report that the officers learned that the off-duty Tagabuel had threatened his son and daughter-in-law with a machete.

According to the victims, they were heading toward Obyan Beach on a car when they saw a white car approaching them. Tagabuel got down from the car, approached the two and allegedly began yelling at them to get out of the vehicle.

When his son refused to get out, Tagabuel walked back to his vehicle and allegedly took a machete, walked to the driver side of his son's vehicle, and hit the roof of the car with the machete.

The son still refused to get out. Tagabuel leaned into the vehicle and grabbed the car keys and left the area. The two then called police to report the incident.

A police officer pulled over Tagabuel and arrested him at 1:47pm that same day.

Bauleong said that during her interview with Tagabuel at the Department of Corrections on Monday, the defendant admitted to hitting the car's roof with a knife as he wanted to scare his son for refusing to get out of the vehicle.

Bauleong said that, according to Tagabuel, he was mad because his son borrowed the vehicle since Tuesday last week and didn't return it.

Tagabuel claimed that he was looking for his son when he saw the car near Obyan Beach so he stopped in front of it.

STATUS

From Page 1

Three years after the federal government took over CNMI immigration, these "CNMI permanent residents" are still waiting for a solution that goes beyond a federal grant of "parole."

"It hurts that we're left out. What hurts more is that three years after federalization, we are still left out. Right now, I'm just relying on my parole," Dalit told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Office on Aging yesterday.

She said she applied for and was granted "parole" by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, but it's valid for only a certain period of time, is not valid for employment, and does not permit her to travel freely in and out of the CNMI.

"In my age, I'm already 81, I should not be worrying about my immigration status but because we're not given any, I still worry about it. I feel we are being neglected. Can somebody do something?" she asked.

Another elderly at the Office on Aging said that back in the early '80s, there were some 300 of them with CNMI permanent resident status, but that number today is only about 100 or less.

"Many of us with CNMI permanent resident status already died or are very old now," said the elderly, who requested that his name be not published at this time.

They said they are thankful for Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 1466, which seeks to grant them status to remain in the CNMI, but the bill is still pending and may not even pass.

HR 1466 proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008, and continuing to be on the islands; CNMI permanent residents; those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978; and the spouses, parents or children of U.S. citizens under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Kazunori Ikeda, 42, said yesterday that his father passed away on Saturday at the age of 69 without getting any help about his immigration status.

Ikeda said that what concerns him most is that perhaps CNMI government officials are not even aware that people like him and his deceased father with so-called CNMI permanent resident status exist in their midst and are now still in limbo.

"Maybe if they know, they have already forgotten about us. I feel that the same government who gave us permanent resident status has abandoned and neglected us. I think that it is the CNMI's responsibility to do something about it by recommending to the federal government to give us a permanent status," he said.

Ikeda came to Saipan with his family in 1975 when he was only 6 years old. He said his parents and he all got CNMI permanent resident status.

"We have been raised and lived here for a long time. But are CNMI officials aware of us? And if they are aware of us, what are they doing about it to help us get a status? We're not talking about 10,000 people. We are talking about maybe 100 people now, because many have already passed away just like my father," he said.

While USCIS grants "parole" to certain groups of people like CNMI permanent residents, Ikeda said that this is only valid for a certain period of time, needs to be renewed and cannot be used to go in and out of the CNMI. For those like him, they have to pay a lot of money to be able to return to the CNMI after a temporary exit.

Just like Dalit, Ikeda hopes that the Fitial administration will "do something" to help them.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said, "Although this matter was never brought to the attention of the administration, we only know as much as is reported recently."

"Based on what is known and recognizing the concerns of those affected, the Fitial administration, or the Commonwealth for that matter, does not have the flexibility to implement any specific type of immigration status. This is exactly why Gov. Fitial adamantly opposed federalization—U.S. Public Law 110-229—even taking it to the courts in an attempt to block implementation of the law in the CNMI," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the governor still disagrees with PL 110-229 and still believes that local control of immigration is a key component to the Covenant's promise of self-government.

The Covenant establishes the political relationship between the U.S. and the Northern Marianas.

"But although Gov. Fitial exhausted all options to stave off federalization of our immigration control, the consequences and the impact on those once considered 'permanent residents' is the result of a Democrat-controlled United States Congress, the very same group that our current delegate proudly claims to caucus with," Demapan said.

He said the Fitial administration maintains that PL 110-229 should be repealed and control of local immigration be rightfully returned to the Commonwealth.

"The governor remains hopeful that with the high possibility of Republicans taking control of the U.S. Senate in this year's national elections, the Commonwealth will be better poised to rally the support of both house of the U.S. Congress to repeal the most devastating law ever implemented in the CNMI," Demapan added.

Fitial and Sablan do not see eye to eye on a host of issues. Dalit and Ikeda hope that the two officials will set aside their politics and help those like them who are left out in the federalization law.

Ikeda, in a recent letter to the editor, said that as far as he knows, "none of our local government people have taken any actions on this."

"My opinion is that they don't know about this kind of people who the CNMI immigration or government granted status. Then after more than three decades, these people are now considered an alien under the U.S. law. Isn't this irresponsible treatment of people who speak, eat, live, blend, contribute, and etc. to our community? Since no one is speaking up, I had to bring this up. Hope whoever this may concern, I think it's about time you should do something about these people of the CNMI," he said.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

bris and mining pozzolan and bring them to Japan. They need to study how they will be able to take the pozzolan from the site to the harbor and to the ship. It's going to take time," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office yesterday afternoon.

Tenorio came back on Sunday from a trip to Japan where he met with the Japanese investors, including Isamu Tokuichi, chairman of the board of Kansai Oil Co. and president of New Energy Corp.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, also visited a prefecture that is still swamped with debris from the March 2011 tsunami.

He said once the engineers and other experts are able to determine the costs associated with their plan, that's the time they will be able to draft a business plan and sit down with the Department of Public Lands on their planned lease of portions of Pagan.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said last week that as far as he knows, "all we got are business cards from them," and not any business plan or anything in writing about their proposal to mine pozzolan on Pagan and bring tsunami debris there. Inos said he would like to see a formal business plan from the investors.

Tenorio said the technical experts coming to the CNMI may be accompanied by Oku Shigeharu, chairman of Japan Southwest Islands Security Institute and one of those who visited Pagan last month.

Tenorio also said that the pozzolan samples from Pagan that Shigeharu brought with him to Japan were analyzed and confirmed to be of good quality.

In April, after a preliminary visit to Pagan, the Japanese investors said they are looking at leasing for 10 to 15 years roughly 2,000 hectares of public land on Pagan to mine pozzolan and to recycle pre-treated tsunami debris that they plan to bring in from Japan.

This early, however, some CNMI residents are expressing opposition to what they describe as the "desecration" of Pagan by turning it into a dumping ground.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that they are keeping an eye on this proposal.

The Japanese investors said the tsunami debris will be pre-treated, non-toxic, and non-radioactive, citing Japanese and international laws that prohibit shipment of highly toxic materials from one country to another.

The tsunami debris will be coming from two prefectures in Japan—Miyagi and Iwate. These are north of Fukushima where the damaged nuclear power plants are located, they said.

The investors said it is costly to ship pozzolan from Pagan to Japan. One way to help offset the cost is to bring pre-treated tsunami waste from Japan to Pagan, and this way, the ship won't sail empty going to Pagan.

The Japanese government pays prefectures that want to take in debris from the March 2011 tsunami and some of these prefectures are contracting with private investors to dispose of these debris, Tenorio added.

CHINA

From Page 1

prompting many states across the nation such as Hawaii, Nevada, and California to initiate efforts to go after this emergent tourist market.

Besides their ever-increasing number, Chinese tourists also have substantial spending power, he added.

"That, actually, is the most important market in the near future," he stressed.

Tan's presentation showed that since the China market started coming to the Commonwealth through Tinian Dynasty's charter flights, the number has increased from 2,478 in 1998 to 42,344 in 2011. While arrival numbers are going up, Tan noted that it is still "a very small number."

"We need a lot more Chinese tourists than just 42,000," he said.

Tan attributed the CNMI's meager share of Chinese tourists not only on the "difficulty" of dealing with charter flights but most notably the lack of a stable air service on the islands.

Having a year-round air service, Tan said, will allow the islands' tourism industry to bounce back from its current state and turn around the local economy.

"It continues to be the top concern and top priority as far as our desire to recover with our economy because at the end of the day, tourism is the only industry that we have," he added.

Saipan Air

Tan is optimistic that the launch of Saipan Air will help boost tourism arrivals in the Commonwealth. Owned by Tan Holdings, Saipan Air will be the first national carrier of the CNMI and is set to launch its inaugural flight on July 1.

Saipan Air will initially provide daily flights to Narita City in Japan and four times a week service (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday) to Beijing, China. Beginning Aug. 1, the airline company will offer daily flights to Osaka and thrice a week (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday) flights to Shenyang.

Saipan Air will use a Boeing 757-200 for the Narita, Beijing, and Shenyang flights. This aircraft has a 193-seat capacity, 177 of which are economy seats while 16 are business class seats.

Meanwhile, the Osaka flights will use the smaller Boeing 737-400, which can accommodate 138 passengers in economy class and 12 in business class for a total of 150 seats.

Tan revealed that one 757 aircraft and one 737 aircraft are expected to arrive on June 28. Both planes are currently in Indiana for routine maintenance checks. Another 757 aircraft, which will pull in by Aug. 1, will be used as a "backup" to ensure continuous and reliable service.

Tan said that based on seat configuration and other factors, they expect each Saipan Air flight to bring in an additional 50,000 tourists annually. With every tourist spending $667 on the average, all three flights are projected to infuse about $100 million into the local economy.

"It's no small number. This is very, very big," Tan pointed out.

Tan also noted that the additional tourists will bring back the CNMI's overall tourism arrivals to the same level as 2005, before the pullout of Japan Airlines from the Commonwealth.

Saipan Air will also be looking at tapping other important cities and markets such as Nagoya, Fukuoka, Hong Kong, and Taipei in Taiwan, said Tan. In the meantime, the company will focus on where it has the best chance for success "and try to make it work."

Tan urged the community to rally behind the new airline and pray for its success since "Saipan Air's success is CNMI's success."

"For the sake of our people and the economic recovery, we really need to grow our tourist arrivals," he added.

Saipan Singing Super Star PART 2
Starts 6:30pm to 8:30pm
At Saipan Grand Hotel Lobby
May 4 & 5, 11 & 12, 18 & 19
And Grand Finals on May 25 & 26, 2012
For more information, please contact 234-6601
Another exciting offer from the grand!
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

Weekend Food Fair!
Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday
6:00pm - 9:00pm
With Live Entertainment
Food $1.00, $2.00
and $3.00 menu
Soft Drinks $1.00
at Saipan Grand Hotel Lobby
Another exciting offer from the grand!
FREE play @ THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WHIMSY Arcade
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

‘TMC’s new Guam hospital could help NMI with urgent care’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration said the $220-million private hospital that The Medical City is currently building in Guam will help provide CNMI patients urgent care instead of sending them to farther places such as the Philippines, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Monday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other jurisdiction leaders welcome the development of a new hospital in Guam and view it as “an opportunity to receive urgent care in a more timely manner.”

The Medical City was one of the presenters at the last Micronesian Chief Executives’ Summit held in Guam. It is currently building the Guam Regional Medical City, to be completed in 2014.

This comes even as the Fitial administration looks to privatizing the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Demapan said it was TMC that offered to assess the viability of turning the CNMI’s only hospital into a private entity.

“The governor, upon conferring with [chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta] and the [CHC] board, accepted,” he said.

Some lawmakers said it’s appalling that the governor seems to be the one “running” CHC when there’s a CEO, but Demapan said the “governor is exploring all options to ensure that healthcare in the CNMI is not compromised.” He also pointed out that the governor placed CHC under a state of emergency.

Demapan said the governor and Babauta discussed TMC’s visit prior to its arrival on island.

THC’s assessment is supposed to take about six weeks.

“When it comes to healthcare for the people, it’s a matter of life or death. It’s not appropriate to take the usual ‘wait-and-see’ approach. Healthcare is a priority and if it means that the administration must step in, then step in it will. Right now, the governor just wants to ensure that the right decision is made in the best interest of the people’s health and wellness,” Demapan said.

He declined to categorically state whether the administration will award a sole-source contract for the hospital’s privatization or put it up for bids, merely saying: “CHC is under a state of emergency.”

“Under a state of emergency, the administration is expected to respond to the crisis by taking all actions necessary,” he added.

CUC continues removing illegal streetlights

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., through its Power Division, continues its efforts to remove all non-government and unregistered private streetlights from the electrical grid.

Unregistered private streetlights are those that do not meet the description and criteria set by the Department of Public Works, according to CUC.

DPW defines government streetlights as those installed on the main territorial routes or dedicated public rights of ways that are registered with the agency.

CUC said it will remove all unregistered private streetlights from the electrical grid and place them at the base of the power pole from which they were detached.

Power Division manager Gary Camacho said that CUC already disconnected a total of 250 unregistered private streetlights from the electrical grid, which translates to 47,500 kilowatt hour-savings per month.

CUC is encouraging private streetlight owners to visit the Dandan office to register their existing streetlights.

“Once a private streetlight is registered, the customer will be charged for the reconnection and usage through the standard monthly billing process,” said the agency.

CUC line crew will also perform needed aesthetic adjustments for all streetlights to ensure that they are installed on every other pole starting from the intersection of each territorial route.

For more information, call CUC Power Division’s Susan Mailuyal at 235-7032.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
(MOWING, TRIMMING AND CLEANING OF GROUNDS)
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for ground maintenance services of the International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services of the Saipan International Airport as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, evaluation factors, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, **May 16th, 2012**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to the RFP shall take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “**Proposal for Ground Maintenance Services (mowing, trimming and cleaning of grounds of the Saipan International Airport**”). One(1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, June 15th, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) available resources (funds and ground work tools and equipment) to accomplish project, (2) price, (3) similar projects completed,(4) sufficiency of workers and their categories, (5)list of pending and ongoing projects and (6) Valid CNMI Business license.

Proposer will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA’s requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., **Wednesday, May 23rd, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director’s Office at (670)234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals: or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror’s preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO Date: 5/9/2012
Executive Director

United States District Court for the
Northern Mariana Islands,
Bankruptcy Division

NORTHERN MARIANNA ISLANDS
RETIREMENT FUND

Bankruptcy Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the United States Trustee’s Motion to Dismiss Case (“motion”) is set for hearing on June 1, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. The motion sets forth the grounds regarding why the United States Trustee has determined that the Debtor is ineligible to be a chapter 11 debtor, and accordingly, has requested that the case be dismissed. The full contents of the motion is on file with the Court, and a copy can be obtained from the Court. Any response or opposition to the motion must be filed with the Court on or before May 18, 2012 (14 days before the hearing) at: U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands , 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 500687, Saipan, MP 96950 USA
If you mail your response to the Court, you must mail it early enough so the Court will receive it on or before the deadline stated above. The Court may disregard any response filed untimely. You must also mail or transmit a copy of any response or opposition to the moving party at: Office of the United States Trustee, Attn: Curtis Ching, Asst. U.S. Trustee, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 602, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.
If you fail to file a response to this motion within such time period, the Court may treat such failure as a waiver of your right to oppose the motion and may grant the requested relief.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii May 9, 2012,

Terri H. Didion,
Trial Attorney for U.S. Trustee

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DPW/ED-056

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 21, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“PROVISION OF FOUR (4) DIESEL COMMERCIAL WOOD CHIPPERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION”

THETHE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJET WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MAY 16, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISION OF ENERGY LOCATED AT THE SPRINGS DEVELOPMENT PLAZA OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO 4woodchippers@recovery.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 05, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME. AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, LOCATED IN MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, ON JUNE 11, 2012 TO commercialwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp OR FACSIMILE TO (670) 664-4488

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO — ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN — DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY
/S/ THELMA B. INOS — DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.:RFP12-DEQ-080

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 18, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“PESTICIDE SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY”

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MAY 16, 2012 AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. REINA CAMACHO (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO **reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JUNE 05, 2012.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN — DIRECTOR OF DEQ
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN — DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF TERMINATION AND DISSOLUTION

LIFESTYLE CHARTERS LLC

NOTICE is hereby given that LIFESTYLE CHARTERS LLC, a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands limited liability company (the “Company”), was terminated and dissolved effective May 8, 2012, and intends to terminate its existence. All persons which claims against the Company are to send them in writing to the Company at the following address: 295 Palmas Inn Ste 11, Humacao, PR 00791, Attention: Robert O’Connor. The written claim must include the following:

(1) Claimant’s full legal name and contact information (address, email, telephone number, fax, etc.);
(2) Summary description and amount for the claim;
(3) Date the claim arose: and
(4) Copies of all documents and other information evidencing the claim.

Pursuant to 4CMC § 4908(b)(3), as amended, a claim against the Company is barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within five (5) years after publication date of this notice. Further, pursuant to 4 CMC 4908(c), the claim of each of the following claimants is barred unless the claimant commences a proceeding to enforce the claim against the dissolved company within five (5) years after the publication date of this notice:

(1) A claimant who did not receive written notice under 4 CMC 4907;
(2) A claimant whose claim was timely sent to the dissolved company but not acted on; and
(3) A claimant whose claim is contingent or based on an event occurring after the effective date of dissolution.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

AMENDMENT # 01
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, May 17, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes:
February 23, 2012 Regular Board Meeting
March 09, 2012 Special Board Meeting.
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
a. Garapan Annex RFP
b. Personnel Matters
c. Update on Thirty-Two (32) former RD Properties
d. QAP 2012
e. REO’s for Sale (003 D 16, 003 D 22, 001 C 57)
f. Multifamily Renewal
g. CDBG/CDBG-R Updates
h. ESG Updates
i. Fiscal RFP
IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
V. OTHER MATTERS
VI. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a PSS Foundation Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

1. Elect the Officers of the Board of Directors
2. Review the Charter of Incorporation and ByLaws
3. Develop SMART action plans for the PSS Foundation

Teen Truth Live tackles bullying, other youth issues

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Junior high and high school students from the Public School System learned about bullying and other school issues in presentations conducted by Teen Truth Live speakers.

According to its website, Teen Truth Live is North America's premier student assembly experience aimed at discussing bullying and school violence, drugs and alcohol, and body image and self-esteem issues in schools.

Based in San Diego, Calif., Teen Truth Live has "the most unique issue-focused" assembly programs available through their award-winning, student-shot films that uncover "the real truth on the issues that students face but don't talk about" and has motivational speakers across the nation.

Michael Sarich, tour manager of Teen Truth Live, said he and two other program speakers arrived on May 6 to speak in front of public school students from over 20 junior high and high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sarich disclosed that it was right after the 1999 Columbine High School shooting in Colorado that director Erahm Christopher and producer JC Pohl expressed their desire to make a difference. They hand-selected five teenage students who were a given a camera to film how teenagers feel about being one. What resulted was a 22-minute film about bullying and school violence and before long, two more 22-minute films about drugs and alcohol and image and self-esteem were created "through the eyes of a teenager."

"Never in a million years did they think that Teen Truth would grow to as big as it is," said Sarich. "Everybody faces one or all three of these issues in some way, shape or form that's why we feel it's important."

Sarich said this is the second year for PSS to bring the Teen Truth Live program to the islands. For this trip, Sarich was joined by the program's co-founder and producer Pohl and another motivational speaker, Giselle Rodriguez.

Sarich said the response from students has been "overwhelming." In fact, one student from Rota took it upon himself to make a difference in his community. "That's what Teen Truth is all about—having the power to make a difference in either yourself or the community," he added.

Sarich said their program includes follow-up mechanisms contained in a 35-page teacher's resource book that encompasses activities for students and teachers.

"Most schools say that their entire culture has changed because of our program," he said. "It kind of opened up everybody's eyes, especially when it comes to bullying, that it makes everyone a lot happier now. People walk around now without that chip on their shoulder because they are so open and honest with everybody now."

Giselle Rodriguez, Teen Truth Live motivational speaker on bullying and school violence, talks to students from the Public School System at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Wednesday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Sarich, who is a motivational speaker for the drugs and alcohol component of the program, stressed that students do not have to follow in the footsteps of family members with drinking or drug abuse problems.

"I always tell students when I'm up on stage, you have the power to do anything that you want in life. If you have a family member who does drink or does use drugs, you do not have to follow in their footsteps. You have the power to do anything that you want and you do not have to give in to what your surroundings have adapted to," he added.

Sarich is hopeful that PSS will continue to bring Teen Truth to the islands. "We want to continue building this relationship with the CNMI."

For more information about Teen Truth, visit www.teentruthlive.com, www.facebook.com/teentruth or follow them on Twitter at twitter.com/teentruth.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-006

SUGAR DOCK DREDGING IN SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Sugar Dock Dredging in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after May 09, 2012 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a ***Mandatory* Pre-bid Conference** for this project on May 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Division of Fish & Wildlife Conference Room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 31, 2012 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director, Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that a full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if used after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in t he space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW12-IFB-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 11, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 11, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 11, 2012, and must be received no later than June 21, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 27, 2012, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 14, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the CNMI, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty (30) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US $100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B.CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director Procurement and Supply

/s/ JOAQUIN B. SONGSONG
Acting Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources

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Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

- **Friday May 18th 8:30am - 5:00pm** *at Marianas Medical Center in San Antonio*
- **Saturday May 19th 9:00am - 3:00pm** *at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan*

All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling

234-3925/7

Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

BOARD CERTIFIED NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION-HEARING INSTRUMENT SCIENCES NBC HIS

Ross Hearing Aids

OAG resolves three OPA recommendations

The Office of the Attorney General has resolved a resolved a total of three outstanding recommendations from the Office of the Public Auditor and expects to resolve a fourth recommendation before the next OPA audit report is released.

In the first recommendation, OPA asked the OAG to investigate the number of telephone lines used by the former Department of Labor and Immigration. In particular, DOLI had 10 long distance calling accounts, but only four people who had access to make long distance calls. On Dec. 1, 2009, the OAG advised OPA at a meeting that the issue was moot since the federalization of immigration. In February 2012, the OAG sent OPA a written response and the matter was closed.

The second recommendation dealt with the misuse of public funds in the amount of $100,249 by a former Finance secretary. The former official was to repay $56,451.98 pursuant to a restitution order in the criminal case. OPA requested the OAG to determine if further legal action should be taken to recover the balance of the amount misused. The OAG determined that further legal action was not required as the restitution award, due to late fees and interest, had already increased to over $100,000, of which $76,000 will be paid to the Commonwealth. Further, it will be unlikely that the Commonwealth would collect the balance through further legal action as the former secretary does not have sufficient assets to satisfy another judgment. OPA closed the recommendation upon receipt of the AGO's written description of its findings.

The third outstanding audit recommendation was officially resolved this month. In 2003, OPA published a report concluding that the subsistence allowance of the 13th Legislature may only be provided by legislation and the then current allowance was unreasonably high in relation to the senators' likely travel expenses. The OAG found that this type of expense allowance is almost universal across the United States. Moreover, they are routinely upheld by state courts and generally given wide latitude. However the Department of Finance has the discretion to not pay a claim if the allowance claimed is unreasonable and appears to provide a personal benefit to the Legislature. Lastly, the OAG found that, although Finance regulations apply to the Legislature, they must be amended to apply more effectively to the current form of allowance. As such, OPA will redirect the recommendation to Finance.

Lastly, the OAG expects to close a fourth recommendation shortly. OPA redirected the recommendation to OAG on Dec. 12, 2000, and it concerned bribery and fraud in connection with a Tinian land survey contract. Specifically, a contractor bribed several public officials to approve a drastically overpriced contract for unnecessary work that was never performed. The U.S. Attorney's Office filed an action against the contractor, and the parties stipulated to a plea agreement whereby he was sentenced to eight months in prison. The contractor also agreed to pay restitution, which was valued at $151.314.69 as of October 2009. OPA requested the OAG investigate the recovery of restitution award.

During its investigation, the OAG discovered that contractor had filed for bankruptcy in 2009, which would ordinarily make it more difficult to collect the outstanding restitution. However, the U.S. Attorney's Office placed liens on the contractor's real properties in 2002. Recently, the court also approved the United States' request to foreclose upon the 10 real properties to satisfy the judgment. The bankruptcy trustee, U.S. Marshall's Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office are working to sell the properties and satisfy the judgments. The OAG feels that it will fulfill the requirements of OPA's request by submitting a written report of the investigation and all supporting documents.

The OAG is pleased with the progress that has been made since renewing its focus on bringing the Office into compliance with OPA recommendations. The closure of the third recommendation would bring the Office's number of outstanding recommendations down from 11 to eight. This reduces the OAG's amount of outstanding recommendations by 27 percent. The two offices are working diligently to close all of the remaining open recommendations as quickly and efficiently as possible. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Family of former mayor, Rotarian seeks help

Rotary Club of Saipan president Pete Igitol is encouraging club members to provide any kind of help to a former Rotarian and longtime public servant in need.

Igitol, during yesterday's meeting, read a letter from Viol Diaz, daughter-in-law of former mayor Francisco M. Diaz, requesting for assistance to help defray the cost of sending their father to Honolulu, Hawaii for medical treatment.

"Due to lack of funding in our CNMI government, Medical Referral will only be able to provide room accommodation. Airfare and meal expenses [are] at the cost of the patient," said Viol Diaz.

To raise the needed amount, Diaz said they will be holding a dinner fundraiser at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret on June 1, Friday, from 6pm to 9pm. Tickets to the fundraiser cost $50 each.

"We kindly ask for support in purchasing tickets for this event," said Viol Diaz, who is in charge of the fundraiser. "Any support and contribution is most greatly appreciated." ***(Clarissa V. David)***

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Robert "Bob" J. Barry, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Rotary Club of Saipan, gestures as Rotary president Pete Igitol looks on during yesterday's meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant. Barry and Jim Alger of the Rotary Club of Guam recommended extending the Rotary Club to Saipan based on a feasibility submitted in 1966, giving way to the organization, which marked its 44th anniversary this year.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A happy and most *delicious* birthday greeting goes out to our chef, Vacian Pangelinan! Thank you for all the delicious food you have prepared for us and know that we appreciate all that you do. Hope you have a fantabulous day! Rock on! From your HVP family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our princess, Ranasia Bocago! Enjoy your day and have lots of fun. You continue to grow into a beautiful and intelligent girl. May you have many more birthdays to come. Love you always. From your Bocago and Sablan families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Rudy Seman Kaipat Jr. aka "RJ." May you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday to Jylon Joseph! May the good Lord bless you with many more years to come. We love you very much. Enjoy your special day! Greetings come from Mommy, Ardonn, and Keanalise.

Shirley's takes part in Charter Day

Shirley's Coffee Shop once again served as one of the food vendors in Northern Marianas College's Charter Day celebrations last May 4.

It was the sixth straight year that the local restaurant took part in the celebration of the college's founding and it was happy to announce that sales were up 20 percent during the occasion.

Among the food Shirley's Coffee Shop offered during the event were fried chicken, its famous fried rice, palabok, caldereta, siomai, barbecue, broccoli, dinuguan, menudo, grilled mahi, and beefsteak.

Shirley's Coffee Shop participated in the Charter Day celebration not only to promote its business to the islands' lone community college but also to promote and support NMC.

Founded in 1983, Shirley's Coffee Shop has been serving the best of Chamorro, Filipino, and American cuisines in generous servings on Saipan and in Guam. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 16, 2000

CPA takes over abandoned sea vessel

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has taken over MV Celeste after its owner failed to remove the abandoned sea vessel from the Rota West Harbor during the weekend, Board Chair Roman S. Palacios disclosed yesterday. CPA, through the Rota seaport superintendent, served MV Celeste owner Angyuta Shipping Co. Ltd. an emergency order to immediately transfer the vessel to the San Jose harbor on Tinian due to the danger it posed to the dock and the sea transport facility in the island. Mr. Palacios noted the potential risks that may be caused by the unmanned vessel to the island's sea transport facility that may be aggravated by an extremely harsh weather.

Phone surcharge fees to fund 911 operations junked

The House of Representatives has junked a proposal to impose monthly surcharge fees for users of both landline and cellular telephone services in the CNMI in order to fund 911 emergency operations on the island. Offered by Rep. David M. Apatang, the measure fails to address the procedures on how such fees would be implemented and their impact on the government which is also phone subscriber and at the same time owner of the 911 system, according to a report prepared by the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications. The panel, which is chaired by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, is in fact currently reviewing a similar proposal which is "more detailed and adequate" than the provisions of HB 12-9.

May 16, 2001

CUC to install wastewater system along Middle Rd.

The Commonwealth Utilities Commission's pledge to build an efficient wastewater network in the Northern Marianas took another step toward fruition yesterday. This, after the utility firm unveiled a plan to install a new line of wastewater collection services costing $865,000 along Middle Road. The new line will eventually link to an existing system in nearby San Jose village. "Within six months, a new collection pipeline will connect portions of San Jose village, that already has wastewater services, to the rest of the Middle Road wastewater system," CUC said in a media statement.

CPA's help to develop Northern Isles sought

The Northern Islands Mayor's Office yesterday sought the assistance of the Commonwealth Ports Authority in putting forward the proposed development of the four islands north of Saipan through the construction of reliable transportation facilities. Northern Islands Mayor Joseph T. Ogumoro met yesterday with CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios, Executive Director Carlos H. Salas and board member Frank Guerrero to discuss NIMO's long-term plan to develop Anatahan, Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrigan. Mr. Ogumoro's office recently came up with an economic blueprint for the islands of Anatahan, Alamagan, Pagan and Agrigan expected to pave the road for the smooth resettlement of displaced Northern Islands residents.

May 16, 2002

Housing loans now open to veterans

In the run-up to Memorial Day, the Veterans Administration in Honolulu, Hawaii is highlighting a housing loan program that Chamorro- or Carolinian-descent veterans can avail of, to a maximum of $120,000 for a term of 30 years. This comes soon after a recent visit to the Commonwealth by loan specialist Gaylene Matsuura of the Veterans Administration in Honolulu, Hawaii, in efforts to make the program more visible to the islands' veterans. Rep. William S. Torres said Matsuura met with the housing specialist Melvin Sablan and newly appointed Special Assistant for Veterans Administration Frank Cepeda to discuss how to better make the loan program more accessible to CNMI veterans.

FAA assures funding for Rota airport

The Federal Aviation Administration assured the Rota government of its full support to see the Rota International Airport Runway Extension program to its completion. FAA Airports District Office Manager Ronnie V. Simpson said that upon completion of the recommended development of the environmental assessment and the update on the Rota Airport Master Plan, the agency would be able to financially support the program. "Upon completion, the FAA will then be able to financially support the recommended development subject to the availability of federal funds," said Simpson.

US Marines return to Tinian for Exercise Geiger Fury

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-12
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN—Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 returned to Tinian island in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands on May 14, 2012, in support of Exercise Geiger Fury.

The purpose of Exercise Geiger Fury is to execute and assess combined expeditionary operations in the Western Pacific.

As soon as the Marines came ashore from the Western Pacific Express High Speed Vessel, they began setting up a forward operations base.

"We are setting up a FOB in order to better control and coordinate Exercise Geiger Fury," said Capt. Mark Schouten, MWSS-171 officer-in-charge. "As well as conduct repairs to the islands northern airfield built during World War II."

Marines worked into the late hours of the night to set up the FOB, clearing the land in order to set up tents and OE-254 communications gear.

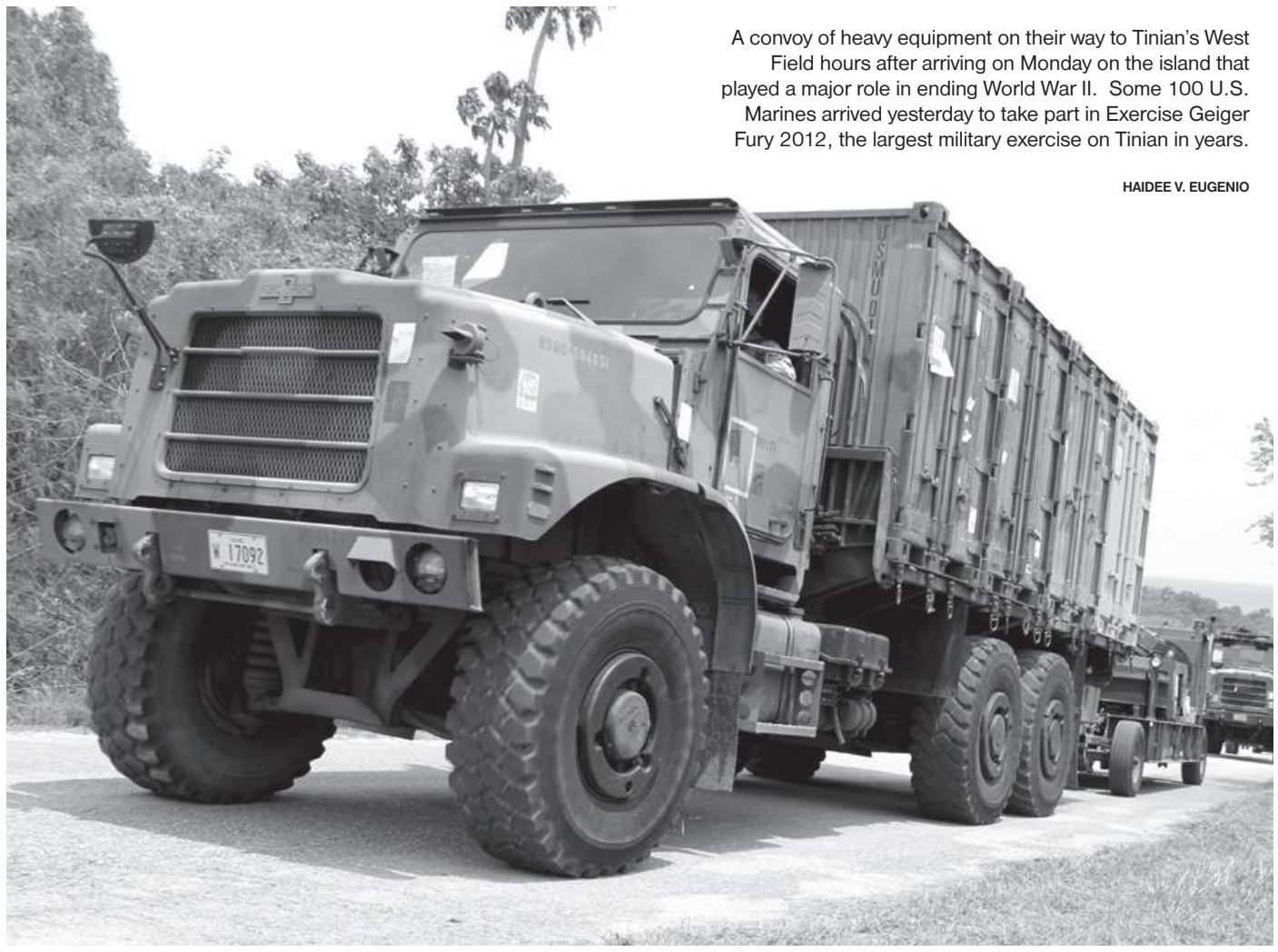
The OE-254 provides air and ground communications for the entire exercise.

"The OE-254 is considered a safety net," said Sgt. Ryan D. Kish, MWSS-171 communications non-commissioned officer-in-charge. "The reason we call it a safety net is because the OE-254 antenna provides a fail-safe frequency that provides support in the event of an emergency throughout the entire area of operations."

Exercise Geiger Fury is not just about a show of force.

The purpose is also to partner with local community services providers and bolster their capability to serve the local citizens of Tinian. As the exercise continues on, the Marines and naval personnel will conduct several community volunteer efforts in order to help in the preservation of historical sites throughout the island.

Throughout Exercise Geiger Fury Marines and naval personnel will repair the island's northern airfield, conduct flight operations, as well as provide medical, dental care and community outreach to the residents of Tinian. ***(PR)***



A convoy of heavy equipment on their way to Tinian's West Field hours after arriving on Monday on the island that played a major role in ending World War II. Some 100 U.S. Marines arrived yesterday to take part in Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, the largest military exercise on Tinian in years.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 move flood lights into position durring Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 May 14. The Marines had to place the flood lights around the camp so that they may work effectively through the night to set up the forward operating base.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two Marines look on as a heavy equipment leaves the high-speed vessel at Tinian dock on Monday morning.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

A Marine with Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 guides a heavy equipment operator setting down a pallet of tents during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 May 14. The Marines had to set up the tents before they would be able to sleep for the night.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marines with Maine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, III Marine Exoiditionary Force heavey equipment operators unload crates containg cots and several tents. The Marines had to work late into the night, keeping a steady pace to construct the forward operating base.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Europe's lesson for the GOP

The widening gulf between the haves and have-nots, the 1 percent and the 99 percent, over the past three decades is not merely some partisan invention of President Obama, the Democrats or the Occupy Wall Street protesters but a real and worrisome trend fueled largely by the financial sector. Income inequality inevitably gives rise to economic instability—which is essentially what's happening in the European Union, where income differences are even more out of whack.

Yet Republicans seem determined to shield the wealthiest Americans from making even the slightest additional sacrifice to help address the nation's deficit. They scoff at the mere mention of the word "fairness." The current impasse over student loans reflects the GOP's intransigence on this subject: With student loan rates set to double this summer, Senate Republicans are steadfastly opposed to a Democratic proposal to cap them because it would be paid with higher payroll taxes on the wealthy and on some privately owned corporations.

Republicans prefer to support budget cuts alone as a means to bringing the federal budget into balance. Yet that approach inevitably falls most heavily on the poor and working class, with less going to education, health care, public transportation, housing, and so on. This is not only insufficient for addressing the deficit—a point made most clearly by the bipartisan commission on fiscal responsibility and reform two years ago—but a recipe for social upheaval and class warfare.

Mitt Romney has frequently suggested that the U.S. is headed toward becoming another Greece under its current Europe-loving president. But at least the Europeans have expected sacrifice from all (and expect even more from the rich in the future, it appears). Under Republican rule, the U.S. seems destined to go straight to an anti-austerity uproar.

What America needs is a balanced approach to promote growth and opportunity and not just one focused on either spending cuts or higher taxes alone. President Obama has at least shown some willingness to move in this direction (although his efforts in entitlements have been underwhelming); the GOP seems to be stuck in a more rigid, doctrinaire view.

The problem with the current political gridlock in Washington is that unless the two sides compromise, U.S. economic policy may prove rudderless no matter who occupies the White House in 2013. Already, there is talk of an impending "taxmaggedon" with the expiration of the Bush tax cuts, the end of the payroll tax cut and other benefits expiring next year, but little hope the two parties can do much to prevent (or even soften) the blow between now and then.

A government that has lost control over its own economic policies? Sounds a lot like Greece, where they have yet to form a governing majority. That may not be the U.S., at least not yet, but it's not difficult to envision such a future if Washington continues to be stuck in its polarized and paralyzed state.

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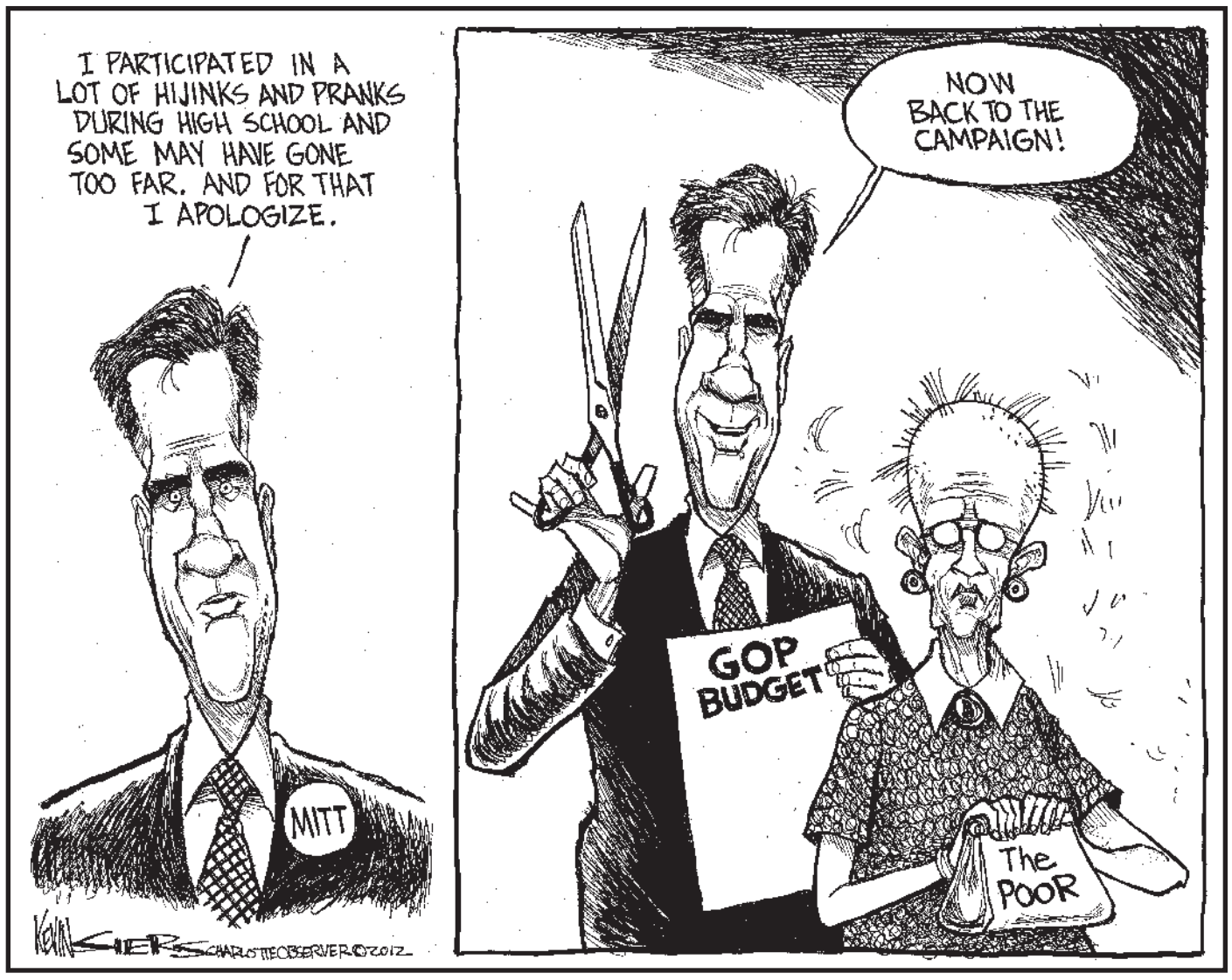

I PARTICIPATED IN A LOT OF HIJINKS AND PRANKS DURING HIGH SCHOOL AND SOME MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR. AND FOR THAT I APOLOGIZE.
MITT
NOW BACK TO THE CAMPAIGN!
GOP BUDGET
The POOR
KELLY SIER CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ©2012

Asia

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Europa, Libya, Asia are names of ladies that refer to three parts of a contiguous whole treated as the separate continents of Europe, Africa, and Asia. In the early 1900, political science planners referred to this contiguous landmass as World Island. Some have called it *Africaeurasia.*

Old Libya became Africa (from the Phoenician *Afer,* meaning "dust" in reference to sandy North Africa), the landmass south of the Mediterranean and west of the Red Sea that separates it from Asia. "Asia" was simply the region east of "Europa" of the Greco-Roman empire, not so much a definition as it is a negative separation of whatever was west of the Danube and south of the Dardanelles.

The climatic and cultural intercourse of rivers and mountains west of the Danube gives flesh to the category "Europe", including the insular English, the hard driving Slav, the methodical Deutsch, the stylish Frank, the passionate Iberian, the imperial Roman, and the rational Greek, a gelled but meaningful category. In contrast to the nebulously defined cultural and geographical unity called "Asia," which etymologically may be traced back to the Akkadian *asu,* meaning "to go outside," or the Phoenician *asa,* meaning "east," and the Greek *Asia,* east of the Aegean, the region east and outside of Europe is simply a makeshift lump!

"Africa" referred to Rome's Carthage but kept expanding into one of Byzantium's dioceses, until finally covering the African northwest. Europe united it in the competitive greed it received and the earnest exploitation it endured from colonizers. Historically, the reality of the region west of the Red Sea and the Ural mountains called Asia also suffered and was suffused by the avaricious tentacles of Europa's children.

Asia as geography to Greece was originally Anatolia (Turkey), Asia Minor, and the Persian Empire (Iran) as Asia Major. Of course, centuries before several prominent civilizations in Mesopotamia, the Indus river valley, and Huanghe river basins flourished and spawned offsprings. We include the heterogeneous composition of the Nile, its formative influence on North Africa, and its creative discourses with Persia, Assyria, Greece, and Rome.

It is our continuing use of the category "Asia" that challenges our understanding since it hardly signifies a discernable entity. "Asian" is treated as an ethnic category in the U.S. Census, mirroring more our Eurocentric perspective than anything else. Afrikaans do not easily fit into African-Americans either. Highly regarded NewsAsia, MediaCorp's broadcast journalism flagship of Singapura, defines its cognitive services as furthering our understanding of Asia's workings! Duh.

The 45-nation Asian Games often reflects the diversity of this geographical category, from Aryan Turks to the Semites in Southwest Asia, Islamic Stans of Central Asia, Mongols in North Asia's steppes, Hindustanis of South Asia, the Malayo-Indo-Chinese of Southeast Asia, and the predominant Hans of the Far East, including the Jurchen-descended far northeast of Siberia to the Aleutians, Nippon and the Korean peninsula. Though impervious to the winds of politics in theory, Israel had been barred from Asian Games competition.

The problem with a nebulous category treated as a definitive entity, geographically and anthropologically, is its ability to diffuse more than it clarifies, listing more the exceptions rather than focusing on the expected core. Nothing is more nebulous in ethnic categories in the United State than the label Asian-American!

Other geo-ethnic names now stuck in English usage are just as dubious in origin. "China" as the people of the Qin (they first referred to themselves as the people of the Han) was given by the Persians to designate oriental traders on the Silk Road, picked up and popularized by Marco Polo, worming itself into the European lingo of the French and the Brits.

Though the name is now officially used, China's folks call their country *Zhongguo* (the Middle Realm), and themselves the *Zhongguoren,* the people who stand in the middle. Imagine a swirling *Taiji* (yin-yang) and the stance to stand at the pivot; it gives one the internal "feel" and "idea" of what it means to be a real Zhongguoren.

Filipinos are named after España's Felipe, originally referring to Europeans born in the archipelago and the natives designated as *indios.* Malaysia is Britain's local Malays in Asia; ditto for Indonesia (India in Asia) to the Dutch. Indochina of Southeast Asia had the more varied taste and the "whatever" tolerance of the French. *Vive le difference!*

A rose is a rose is a rose by any other name. Asia covers too huge a variety of skin tones and tongues. Aye, there's the rub!

"Asia" connotes no definitive meaning. But BC in history has moved from "before Christ" to BCE, "before the Current Era." Still Eurocentric but an improvement. We are redefining our time frames as appropriate to the inclusive global mindset. Time to do the same with geography. After all, the key is location, location, location! The Chamorro identity as bastardized Hispanic prejudice will not do. What we name people and geography needs to reflect current understanding rather than the prejudices of the past.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The shifting sands of bankruptcy

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

We walk around with nervous or weak-kneed confidence as though everything is cool.

It isn't!

There's the towering financial trouble descending in paradise.

Leadership juggles the same figures, praying and hoping for different results.

Einstein calls it "insanity."

The answer isn't anywhere in sight!

It seems that each time the word "bankruptcy" enters the mind of leadership they brave derailing the inevitable with weak-kneed determination to bluff it. How do you bluff the inevitability of bankruptcy engulfing the entire archipelago?

Retirees ponder the imponderable, i.e., what happens when checks are reduced or stop coming altogether?

For active employees under the defined benefit plan, would there be anything for them upon retirement? For regular employees, what's their future against the tide of severe reduction in local revenues? Would they be included in plans for a reduction-in-force?

Is this decision forthcoming anytime soon? Does leadership have the coconuts to inflict such a very unpopular policy decision?

As bell of 'bankruptcy' rings louder

Given the disastrous economic conditions, there really is nothing but certainty of hopelessness in the muddled swamp of uncertainty. It derails any meaningful planning of family pocketbooks. Everyone feels the strange sensation of the shifting sands of bankruptcy.

It even forces questions on the cost of catastrophic or long-term illnesses. You take the issue further, quizzing if you could continue paying for real estate loan for the first family home and other familial obligations such as health and life insurance. With deficit spending swelling annually by as much as $25 million mostly for medical referral, two things come to mind:

1. We have a very unhealthy population who leave personal health for magical treatment by medical experts here and abroad. Isn't health a personal responsibility?

2. The dire need for our people to pay cash (for those without health insurance) following treatment at CHC, take out catastrophic health insurance for long-term illnesses and charity where we give to our fellow man some help, especially those who could hardly make ends meet.

To these troubling queries, the answer would be inconclusive, governance being wary that conditions won't result in the failed promise of "better times." Not when more home foreclosures are in the horizon or as familial obligations skyrocket while salaries go south or remain stagnant. You can't even pay for gasoline at the pump or critical medication and must stretch your tolerance level until the next retirement or social security paychecks arrive.

Has leadership done a double down to reducing the bloated payroll of the NMI? Has it done anything proactively to lure the NMI into a trajectory of economic revival? Must governance repeat with a dysfunctional administration and legislature?

Politicians sell same old filthy rugs

You ask, if only to elicit belly chuckles, why politicians on the hill have quieted down in search of some fabricated answer, any answer. Or have they each taken shelter in self-deception while tucking their tails between their spindly or fat legs? Would they still sell the same filthy rugs inundated with maggots of failure?

The hardship is cyclical as mentioned in the bible that hits the entire global village every 100 years. We pray that it was just a bad dream but we live to see it as its fatal fiery magma devours everything in its way in our presence.

In spite of it all, I haven't given up hope for there lies ahead better and brighter days for fellow men all over. The question is: When? I haven't any answer either other than to say that it really depends on whether we've collectively hit rock bottom and have turned the corner for recovery projected to be woefully slow.

How do we pick up the pieces? I think the answer is in mastering how others have provided real time answers from reputable economists, entrepreneurial experts, investment experts, financial planners, pension experts, bankers, educators, farming and fishing. Though this may sound fitting, it seems a bit too late given the highly dysfunctional leadership who've seen fit to watch our taking stable posture in the shifting sands of bankruptcy.

■ ■ ■ ■

Communal forte returns

The NMI's cultural forte of communal sharing moved center stage last Mother's Day. For some, it was also their children's First Holy Communion. It was a day of familial gathering.

It was a combined occasion that was somewhat obligatory as the oldest among siblings checks out who's doing what on this special occasion.

It was time to pitch in, though a firm believer in individualism, specifically harvesting the sweat equity of personal industry. Handouts aren't part of my working vocabulary, though equally aware that some in our community definitely need it for their children.

The term is "dystopia," where nothing works. This is exactly where the NMI is situated today. It's the net result of global recession that triggered a depression, a stage way below normal recession. Everything in this archipelago has gone dry! But the culture of communal sharing has been illuminated once more where we all check out on one another.

■ ■ ■ ■

Miscellany

We now look around us to see where things went wrong. It's a bit too late for the blame game. It's best that a renewed effort is undertaken to remap the future of these isles. The entire nine yards is in the palm of your hands. You can make a difference and please do so with brain in gear before engaging the tip of your pencil.

■ ■ ■ ■

It isn't surprising that as conditions worsen, the thieves have also equally honed their skills how to make the best hits on the property of others. Beware of this as you leave home for work or elsewhere. These thieves have done their homework on potential hits, i.e., time you leave for work and return, etc. They even use cell phones to rally up other partners in crime.

They even take out cars from car rentals so when they hit tourists in remote places, it's difficult to tell if they are on the scene because they have car rentals, too. This took DPS by surprise. Before using car rentals, they'd pick up the guys with lunch and drop them at a designated place. They'd stay there and make their hits before pick-up time.

■ ■ ■ ■

Now, if tourism is the number industry here, doesn't it make sense for all key players to pitch in to ensure the safety of visitors? Why is it that we only move our fingers when theft happens to visitors? Why are you sleeping on the job? Shouldn't safety be the first order of business? Isn't it understood that word-of-mouth could easily ruin the reputation of the NMI? Why then must we pontificate on what needs to be done when doing it *now* is the most fitting thing to do? This inaction and indecision boggles the mind.

Open letter to the Senate president

By PETE P. REYES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Sen. Pete P. Reyes is the Senate floor leader.

Dear Sen. Paul A. Manglona: Thank you for your May 9 letter where, once again, you reiterated your accusation of the reasons for my recent actions in the sessions. Let me first make this absolutely clear that the removal of my wife from the Legislative Bureau and her replacement by Mr. Mel Mendiola (the son of the mayor of Rota) has nothing to do with the positions I've taken on issues and debates in the Senate sessions. It is perhaps a blessing that she moved on to open what is now a successful business venture. She always dreamt of opening her own business and in preparation for it, went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and obtain a master's degree in Management.

It is suspect, however, how you seem to attach only the list of those who signed the removal petition of my wife. Knowing you, it is a ploy you seem to be very skillful in setting me up to work against the House leadership. I regret to inform you that it won't work. You see, it is not in the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth for me to work against the members of the House of Representatives. Rep. Teresita Santos signed the petition and yet I am committing my full support for her re-election. This is your styIe to divert attention away from the loss of confidence that I have heard the majority of the people of Rota have on you. But it is not an exaggeration that you always put yourself above the best interest of the people. You've done this throughout your terms in office. This is my observation and my opinion, having worked with you for many years.

I am aware that there was numerous meetings you arranged outside of the Legislative Building to conveniently avoid my inclusion. This accounts for the six months you indicated in your letter to me, and you have conveniently excluded me from any discussions regarding the affairs of the Senate. You've done this during the 13th and the 14th Legislature to suit your political ambition. The funny thing is that I know you well enough not to trust you, but when you apologized to me, I put that aside to attend to the welfare of our people. But you are up to your old tricks again and, by golly, I am not going to stand aside anymore and let you submit our people to any more sufferings.

As for the Senate members from Tinian and my two colleagues from Rota, there is no animosity and no personal vendetta. In fact, I've repeated several times how they often outsmart you on legislations and actions on issues. If anything, I have a lot of admiration for them. You are the problem and where the people of the CNMI stand to suffer, I will continue to speak on their behalf. My decisions post the removal of my wife only hone my ability to be more focused and clear. You are not going to detract my focus by your innuendos and gibbering. How can the people be better served when you refused the invitation of the governor to put aside differences and work to solve the crisis we face? Your constant bickering and blaming the House of Representatives does not serve to help the situation. These are your trademarks to shift the blame of your inaction and blame the governor and the House of Representatives. I don't always agree with the governor but I maintain a good working relationship with him because I owe the public to do so.

You raised the issue of my attendance and disposition as both a senator and toward my coworker. This is funny coming from a senator and president of the Senate who shows up to work two or three days a week. Let me assure you that when constituents and reporters come up to the Legislature, it is I who they find and it is I who answer their telephone calls. This includes many of the calls from Rota because they cannot find you. My office maintains the time clock for all three of us working in the "Office of the People." I believe, and I hope I'm wrong, that I am the only elected member of the Legislature that clock in and out and register the mileage of the government vehicle that we use in our office. That, Sen. Manglona, is verifiable. You, on the other hand, show up most of the time twice or three times a week. Some may question where you could be the rest of the week you are on Saipan. I leave that up to their imagination. Sadly, you cannot prove this because you don't time in and out like I do when I report to work. I do this to make sure that there is accountability to the public. Though the public may view my attendance somewhat differently from you because I am not paid as a member, you on the other hand, should be more accountable and responsible to the public because you are paid from their taxes.

Please don't use my wife again as an excuse to justify your inability to address solutions for the crisis that we face. You may recall how many times I've said that we are "a crisis legislature" because I want to impress upon you that the only time we act is when a crisis is upon us. It seems that you don't pay attention when the warning signals are lit up right before your eyes that a certain crisis is imminent. Then when the crisis hits the fan, you pretend to be surprised. You are the president of the Senate, address the solutions of the CUC, CHC, PSS, DPS, and Retirement Fund crises because all you have done so far is introduce legislation that will fix one problem and create four more. If you wish I can list them for you but I'm sure you got my meaning. I'm not like you. I won't tell you that it is not your business to interfere in the needs of the people of Saipan because Saipan has their senators. Rather, I encourage you to work with all of us (the governor, the House of Representatives, and the rest of the senators) to do something that will ease the pain and suffering of our people. If you cannot do that, step aside and let Victor Hocog do that job for you.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

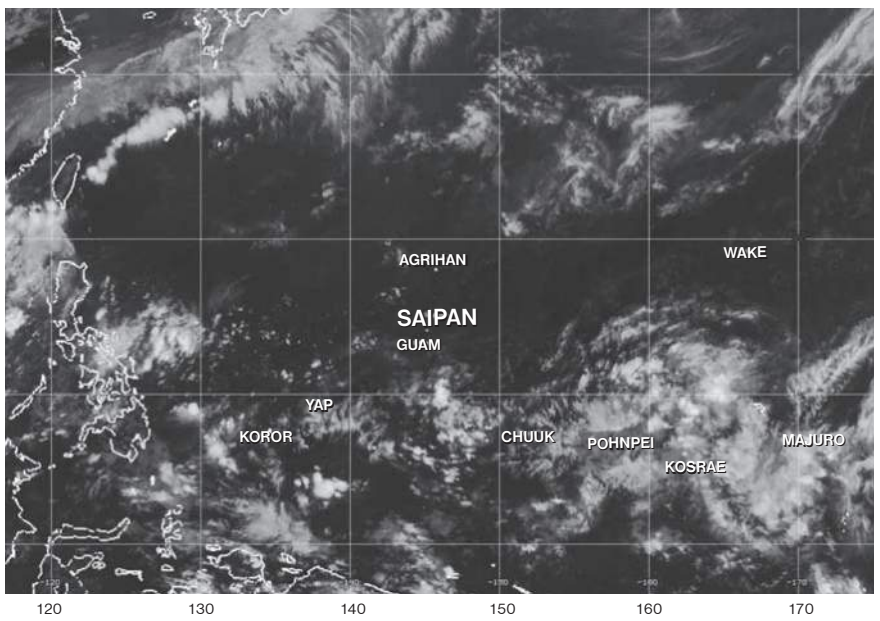
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲93	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼52
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼59
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
New York	Rain	▲65	▼61
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼60
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼39
Pusan	Sunny	▲70	▼58
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼51
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼53
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Washington, DC	Showers	▲77	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E to northeast of the CNMI at 21N151E. Patchy showers are occurring along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence south and west of Koror is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 3N from 134E to 138E and within 60 miles of a line from 6N133E to 9N130E. A surface trough west of Chuuk runs northeastward from 5N146E to 10N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found west of Chuuk between 7N and 10N from 145E to 150E. Another surface trough runs northeastward from 6N158E to 13N163E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Pohnpei within 250 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just south of Kwajelein and Majuro between 1N and 8N from 165E to 174E and east of Majuro between 4N and 11N from 174E to the dateline.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
6:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
11:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:21 AM	2:51 PM
Thursday	2:58 AM	3:39 PM
Friday	3:36 AM	4:27 PM
Saturday	4:16 AM	5:15 PM
Sunday	4:58 AM	6:05 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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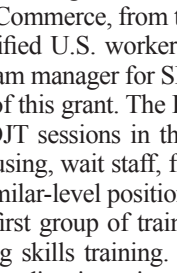
Business

Job search preparation

HR MATTERS
By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

If you read the papers regularly and saw the article Monday in the *Saipan Tribune*, you might know that the CNMI SHRM Chapter was awarded a technical assistance grant in January this year. This grant through the Department of Commerce, from the Office of Insular Affairs, is intended to help prepare qualified U.S. workers to enter the CNMI workforce. I was selected as the program manager for SHRM's Workforce Readiness Initiative, the implementation of this grant. The Initiative will consist of 12 one- to two-week training and OJT sessions in this calendar year in various entry-level jobs such as warehousing, wait staff, food service workers, administrative assistants, and other similar-level positions.

On April 20, the first group of trainees completed a week of job preparation and warehousing skills training. Of the 11 participants, five have been employed, two are pending interviews, and jobs are being sought for the remaining four.

What I want to do in this *HR Matters* article is to talk about the training provided these participants and how this information can serve as guidance to those readers who are also in the job market.

There are jobs available and employers are ready to hire. Some of the openings are from existing vacancies and others are in preparation for vacancies to come, both through employees choosing to leave the CNMI and employers not renewing contracts. I'm an optimist and a firm believer that the economy will pick up and there will be a greater demand for employees in the near future. I applaud Tan Holdings and the upcoming startup of Saipan Air and the business and employment opportunities that will be created by the additional tourist traffic. I also applaud all other new start-ups and those that keep hanging on.

Job seekers have to prepare themselves for these opportunities. It's not just dress well, comb your hair and say "Yes, sir. No sir," although that helps. Some of the preparation comes far in advance. If you are still in high school and you are thinking of dropping out, think again—stick with it and finish. It is much harder to get employment without that high school diploma—and to advance after getting a job. Two of the four participants mentioned above for whom I am still seeking positions did not finish high school, although they are working on their GED. If you did leave school, get enrolled in a GED program. That impresses employers and, when completed, will improve your qualifications. Check with the college or with WIA for help in getting started.

Sit down and do a self-inventory. List your capabilities, your accomplishments, and your strengths. When you fill out an application or write a resume, or have the opportunity in an interview, you want to make sure the employer knows about these. Can you use a computer, operate office equipment or shop equipment? What computer software can you work with? What technical or vocational skills do you have? Did you play sports, win any prizes, captain a team, or coach a younger kids' team? Did you participate in Thespians or NFL in school? Were you a member of the Honor Society, student council, clubs, or other activities?

Why worry about things back in high school? They show extra skills, leadership, involvement, interest, discipline, and commitment—things that might set you apart from other applicants, things that employers like to see and do look for in applicants. When there are more applicants than there are jobs, you want to show anything you can that makes you the better applicant. Also, if you're a young applicant with little work experience, you don't have much more than your school and teen accomplishments to show, so show them.

Inventory your weaknesses. Know what you can't do or can't do well—or don't want to do. Figure out what you can do to correct or overcome your weaknesses, or accept what you can't or won't do. No, I can't tell you what your answer should be to that interview question "Tell me about your greatest weakness." When, if it comes, keep the answer within the work environment. The question isn't about your social or family life. Whatever you choose, pick a real weakness, but be able to show how you are working to correct it or improve on it. "I'm a perfectionist" or "I work too hard" just don't work as answers—be real, but not too revealing.

Inventory your plans and what you want to do with your life—immediate and down the road. You might do this with your wife or beloved or maybe just a friend. It adds perspective to have someone else involved. Sometimes we can't afford to be picky and having a job is more important than just exactly what it is. That's not a great recipe for happiness or sticking with it. When you can make a choice, apply for jobs that you will enjoy performing. That works better for both you and the employer. Don't waste your time or an employer's interviewing for a job that you really don't want. Know ahead of time what you're going to say when they ask you "Why do you want this job?" The answer is definitely not "I just need a job, man."

These hints simply get you off to a start—know yourself and know what you want. In future articles we'll look at more and different aspects of the job search. I know that if you are out there in the job search right now, you can't wait around for my next article. Consider what I've said here and look at the article on Interview Hints that I did for the Nov. 3, 2010, article. You can find it in the Tribune Archives under that title and date.

Good luck with your job search.

AP

President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi, right, talks with Italy's Prime and Finance Minister Mario Monti, second right, as European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn, center, talks with Dutch Finance Minister Jan Kees De Jager, second left, and Finnish Finance Minister Jutta Urpilainen, during the Eurogroup ministerial meeting at the European Council building in Brussels, Monday, May 14, 2012.

Euro ministers plead with Greece to stay the course

BRUSSELS (AP)—Leading European Union finance officials promised to stand by Greece as a member of the eurozone provided it sticks to its bailout terms and stays the course of its painful austerity program to prevent even worse economic hardship.

Greeks fed up with the painful austerity measures had voted for parties that had promised an end to the harsh austerity measures that had been agreed as part of the country's bailout. Many euro finance ministers attending a meeting Monday in Brussels warned, however, that Athens must stick to the terms of the rescue package if it wants to remain in the 17-nation euro currency.

In return, no one was seeking to squeeze Greece out of the shared currency, said Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, the chairman of the Eurogroup.

"Nobody was mentioning an exit of Greece from the euro area. I am strongly against," Juncker said after the meeting of the group.

The ministers were unwilling however to offer Greece significantly better bailout terms, stressing that whether it leaves the common currency or not, it would take years of belt-tightening to ease its debt.

"An exit will solve nothing," said Belgian Finance Minister Steven Vanackere.

His Austrian counterpart, Maria Fekter, noted that Greece was nevertheless moving closer to such an exit as the main political parties in Athens struggled for a ninth day to create a coalition government. They will gather for more talks on Tuesday and if they fail, new elections will be called.

But in the face of pressure from markets, Juncker put up a united front.

"We are 17 member states being coowners of our common currency. I don't envisage, not even for one second, Greece leaving the euro area. This is nonsense. This is proproganda," Juncker said.

The main political parties that agreed to Greece's international bailout do not have the majority to create a new government and smaller parties are reluctant to join them, noting that Greeks have clearly voted against the bailout's austerity terms.

``The situation is serious," Fekter said.

The Commission, the EU's executive body, said it was best for Greece to stay with the pack and bear the hardships with conditional aid close at hand.

Facebook IPO shares tough task for small investors

CHICAGO (AP)—Hoping to get in on Facebook's hotly anticipated public stock offering? You'll need Facebook friends at very high levels—or a lot of money.

Most people who like the idea of owning Facebook's stock will have difficulty getting it at the offer price, currently expected at $28 to $35 a share. Unless you know the right people at Facebook, you'll likely need to have a large, active account with one of the big banks or brokerage firms directly involved in the stock sale.

Otherwise, you can take your chances by buying shares after the initial public offering is completed, when Facebook begins trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market under the ticker symbol "FB." That's likely to happen Friday.

Doing it that way typically means paying much more for the stock, however. And heavy demand skews the early stock price, leaving an investor vulnerable to the risk of a big drop.

Jerome Cleary isn't deterred. One of a legion of Facebook fans, he has never wanted to own a stock as much as he wants to buy this one. Cleary, a standup comedian in Los Angeles, says he has already signed up for an account with a discount online brokerage so he'll be ready.

"I know you should buy stock in what you know and like," Cleary says. "I feel that because they have an incredible mass of wealth and such growing popularity, the stock really may pay off."

Facebook Inc.'s IPO is expected to be the largest ever for an Internet company. It's expected to raise as much as $11.8 billion for Facebook and its early investors—far more than the $1.67 billion raised in Google Inc.'s 2004 IPO.

Bernier is Delta's managing director Asia Pacific

Delta Air Lines said yesterday that Jeffrey Bernier has been appointed managing director, Asia Pacific, effective May 11. Bernier will have overall Asia Pacific commercial responsibility for all aspects of Delta's P&L, outside of Japan.

Prior to this promotion, Bernier was the managing director, Pacific Sales and Affairs. He has made significant contributions to establish Delta as a leading player in Japan and Asia. Under his leadership, Delta's Asia Pacific business has grown by more than 35 percent over the last three years. In his new role, Jeff will continue to be the head of sales and will also have the additional responsibility of managing all aspects of Delta's P&L in all Asia Pacific countries other than Japan.

Bernier

"Jeff is an exceptional leader and his focus on all aspects of the very complex Asian environment will help ensure profitable growth for Delta Air Lines," said Vinay Dube, Delta's senior vice president, Asia Pacific. "His experience will help take Delta to the next level as we focus on enhancing the visibility and accountability for performance on a regional scale, providing better support to our global team and improving all aspects of our customers' experience."

Effective May 11, Masaru Morimoto is appointed managing director, Japan and he will lead Delta's Japan-based team and will have responsibility for managing all aspects of Delta's P&L in Japan.

Matteo Curcio, managing director, Strategy and Market Development, will continue to have responsibility for strategy and market development for the overall Asia Pacific region.

"Increasing our leadership presence in the region is a further proof of Delta's long term commitment to the Asia Pacific market," Dube said.

Delta Air Lines serves more than 160 million customers each year. ***(Delta)***

Nation

GOP kills civil unions in Colorado special session

DENVER (AP)—A last-ditch effort by Colorado's governor to give gay couples in the state rights similar to married couples failed Monday after Republicans rejected the proposal during a special legislative session.

Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper had said the special session was needed to address a "fundamental question of fairness and civil rights."

The bill's demise was expected by Democrats, who have begun using the issue as a rallying cry to topple Republicans in the November elections. Republicans assigned the bill to House State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, which was likely to reject it. The panel voted 5-4 along party lines to kill the measure.

"The gay community is being used as a political pawn," said Republican Rep. Don Coram, whose son is gay. Coram voted against the measure.

Rep. Mark Ferrandino, the Democrats' leader in the House and gay lawmaker co-sponsoring civil unions, sounded a note of optimism before the committee hearing, even as he braced for the bill's rejection.

"If it fails this year, we're going to work hard to make sure the public understands what happened, the games that were played, and next we're going to push it again," he said. "And as I've said a number of times, it's not a matter of `if,' it's a matter of `when.' And the `when' keeps getting sooner and sooner. This will happen."

AP

Andy Schmidt and his 10-month-old daughter Nora attend a rally supporting Civil Unions at the state Capitol in Denver on May 14, 2012.

House Republicans hold a 33-32 voting advantage, but there was enough support for civil unions to pass.

Last week, Democrats tried to force Republicans who control the calendar to bring up the bill for debate. But it became clear Republicans were filibustering by unnecessarily talking at length about other bills.

Republicans then halted work for hours, killing the bill and several others that needed a vote before a key deadline.

"Transparency, accountability and the virtues of good government are compromised when the legislative clock is used to avoid consideration of important legislation," the governor said in a letter to lawmakers before the special session started.

The regular session adjourned Wednesday, the same day an emotional Hickenlooper announced his intent to call a special session over civil unions and other bills that died because of the GOP filibuster.

More than a dozen states allow either gay marriage or civil unions, including several that moved to pass such laws this year.

The debate in Colorado is playing out at a time when President Barack Obama became the first U.S. president to publicly endorse gay marriage. But North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment that bars civil unions and defines marriage as solely between a man and a woman.

Earlier Monday, hundreds of supporters wearing red and waving signs greeted lawmakers returning to Denver for the special session.

Many of the gay-rights activists predicted the bill's demise. They urged Democrats to make the civil unions failure a rallying point for November.

"For too long Democrats have let the right corner the market no talking about values. Finally we've claimed the moral high ground, and we can talk about that," said activist Wiley Sherer, who was selling buttons that read, "Ignorance is forgivable. Pride in ignorance never is."

Undeterred by the civil unions delay, Sherer said, "It's going to happen eventually. I mean, there's no way in 10 years we don't have nationwide marriage equality."

Conservatives, who argue civil unions undermine traditional marriage, portrayed the special session as a waste of taxpayer money. As they have before, Republicans described the measure as a proposal for gay marriage, rather than civil unions.

Civil unions would grant gay couples rights similar to married couples, including letting partners make medical decisions for each other. The protections also would enhance parental and inheritance rights.

Student in coma after NZ crash

BOSTON (AP)—While studying abroad in Australia, Boston University junior Meg Theriault made sure to send flowers to her mother in Massachusetts before Mother's Day.

The bouquet arrived two days ahead of Sunday's holiday, with a note from the 21-year-old saying she would celebrate with her mom, Deb, when she arrived back in the United States this week.

Instead, Theriault's aunt Terri Killam said Monday that her niece's parents now are by the student's side in a New Zealand hospital.

The college junior is in a medically induced coma following brain surgery Saturday in the wake of a minivan crash that killed three of her Boston University classmates and injured four others.

Theriault had been studying in Sydney since January but had gone to New Zealand for the weekend to hike across a well-known volcanic crater with other BU students.

Killam said besides brain surgery, her niece also underwent an operation to fix her broken right arm. While the student's condition had somewhat stabilized, Killam said Waikato Hospital officials still were listing her niece in critical condition.

"When Meg wakes up, we'll see what else we have to do to get her home," said Killam, of Danvers, Mass. "... We've got hope because she's still with us."

The woman said her niece was tossed out the van's window in the crash, which interrupted what she called the trip of a lifetime for a loved one who'd sent home a video clip of herself bungee jumping.

Another student was driving the van when it crashed, and a Boston University spokesman said administrators will caution students against driving while studying abroad in the wake of the deadly wreck.

Theriault

School spokesman Colin Riley said Monday that officials discourage students from driving while studying internationally but that it isn't against policy. He said administrators review study abroad programs constantly and don't anticipate changes after what he said was a terrible tragedy Saturday.

Four other students, including the van's driver, received moderate injuries in the crash. The driver and a second student were released from local hospitals Saturday while a third student was released Monday afternoon. A fourth student, a 20-year-old woman, remained at Rotorua Hospital on Tuesday in a stable condition, according to health officials.

All the students except for the two who remained in hospitals have returned to Auckland, officials said.

New Zealand police said the wreck happened when a minivan drifted to the side of the road, then rolled as the driver tried to correct course near the North Island vacation town of Taupo.

Boston University said 26 students were traveling in three minivans on their way to walk the Tongariro Crossing, a hike across a volcanic crater that is rated as one of New Zealand's most spectacular.

The cause of Saturday's crash remains under investigation. New Zealand police said some students were thrown from the vehicle, indicating they may not have been wearing seat belts.

The New Zealand university hosting the U.S. students said it discourages international students from driving and will ratchet up those warnings.

David Baker, director of Auckland University's international office, said he intends to step up warnings for international students not to drive because they may be unfamiliar with driving on the left side of the road or local conditions.

Hundreds of people took part in a Saturday evening vigil at Boston University to remember crash victims Austin Brashears, of Huntington Beach, Calif.; Daniela Lekhno, of Manalapan, N.J.; and Roch Jauberty, of Paris.

Boston University senior Howard Male, the outgoing student body president, said the school community has pulled together.

Coast Guard grad was rescued at sea as a boy

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Orlando Morel was 6 years old when he and his mother left Haiti on a crowded small wooden boat destined for America. Now 24, Morel remembers the blue of the ocean everywhere. And the hunger. When a piece of bread fell into the water, Morel quickly scooped it up. "I will never forget that taste," he said, recalling the salty, soggy bread.

Nor will he forget when the Coast Guard showed up in a white boat and rescued him, his mother and other passengers.

Eternally grateful, the rescue led Morel to join the Coast Guard, and on Wednesday he will graduate from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut. He will serve on a cutter out of Florida whose mission will include migrant interdiction in the very waters where Morel was rescued nearly two decades ago.

"I can put myself in their shoes," said Morel, who can still speak Creole.

He says he would probably be dead had the Coast Guard not found him and his fellow migrants, who were lost and out of food. So, he's excited at the prospect of saving lives, just as his was saved.

"I don't think that anything I can do will be enough as payback," Morel said. Tony McDade, chief of Morel's company at the academy, said Morel was a "phenomenal cadet" who helped other cadets succeed. He said Morel will bring empathy to the service because of his childhood experience.

AP

In this June 23, 2011 photo, U.S. Coast guard Academy, 1st Class, Cadet Orlando Morel, foreground, reviews a logbook in the generator room aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Eagle.

"When he told me his story, I thought, wow, this is like something out of a Hollywood movie," McDade said. "It's not something he advertises. He's very humble about it."

After the rescue, Morel wound up being sent to Cuba. His mother was taken to a hospital in the United States because she had cancer and burns on her hands. "I was confused, I was scared," Morel said. "Not being with my mom made me even more scared."

Morel was reunited with his mother at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. He visited her several times before she died shortly after his birthday.

"I wanted to cry, but I remember I just couldn't cry," Morel said. "I think it was like shock. We've been through a lot."

His mother told him that her translator, a Haitian woman serving in the U.S. Navy, would take care of him. That woman, a single mother named Louise Jackson, wound up adopting him.

"She's just a remarkable lady," Morel said. "She knew it was going to be hard and she went ahead and did it. I pretty much owe her my life."

Jackson, who lives in Rockville, Md., said when she told Morel his mother had died, he replied, "Is this time for good? I'm never going to see her anymore." Jackson said it was too sad to let Morel be sent back to Haiti.

Asia

AP Exclusive: Moderate Taliban speaks of divisions

AP

Afghan men pray during the funeral ceremony of Arsala Rahmani, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, May 14, 2012.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—One of the most powerful men on the Taliban council, Agha Jan Motasim, nearly lost his life in a hail of bullets for advocating a negotiated settlement that would bring a broad-based government to his beleaguered homeland of Afghanistan.

In an exclusive and rare interview by a member of the so-called Quetta Shura, Motasim told The Associated Press Sunday that a majority of Taliban wants a peace settlement and that there are only "a few" hard-liners in the movement.

"There are two kinds of Taliban. The one type of Taliban who believes that the foreigners want to solve the problem but there is another group and they don't believe, and they are thinking that the foreigners only want to fight," he said by telephone. "I can tell you, though, that the majority of the Taliban and the Taliban leadership want a broad-based government for all Afghan people and an Islamic system like other Islamic countries."

But Motasim chastised the West, singling out the United States and Britain, for failing to bolster the moderates within the fundamentalist Islamic movement by refusing to recognize the Taliban as a political identity and backtracking on promises—all of which he said strengthens the hard-liners and weakens moderates like himself.

He lamented Sunday's assassination in Kabul of Arsala Rahmani, a member of the Afghan government-appointed peace council who was active in trying to set up formal talks with insurgents. Rahmani served as deputy minister of higher education in the former Taliban regime but later reconciled with the current Afghan government.

"He was a nationalist. We respected him," Motasim said.

Motasim used his own stature to press for talks nearly three years before the United States began making overtures to the Taliban in late 2010. At the time, he was also chief of the Taliban political committee, a powerful position that he held until he was shot last August. He is still a member of the Taliban leadership council, the Quetta Shura, named after the Pakistani city of the same name.

His voice softened and he paused often as he reflected on the brutal shooting in the port city of Karachi, Pakistan, where he lived, while moving regularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan in areas that he refused to identify.

Several bullets shattered his body and he was hospitalized for many weeks. In the first days after the shooting, he wasn't expected to survive.

The AP spoke to Motasim from Turkey where he had gone for additional treatment. When speaking of his attackers, he referred to them as brothers and colleagues, saying they may have been Taliban hard-liners who opposed his moderate positions.

"My idea was I wanted a broad-based government, all political parties together and maybe some hard-liners among the Taliban in Afghanistan and in Pakistan didn't like to hear this and so they attacked me," he said. Some of the gunmen may have come from Afghanistan and some may have been from Pakistan's North Waziristan where militant groups have found sanctuary, Motasim said.

In the early minutes of the telephone conversation, Motasim was reluctant to talk politics, saying he had been told by his friends and colleagues to stay silent.

"I am not involved in any talks. I am only here for my treatment," he said.

But he gradually opened up, saying the Taliban have three main demands: They want all Afghan prisoners released from U.S.-run detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay and near Bagram Air Field north of the Afghan capital; the names of all Taliban currently on the United Nations sanctions blacklist removed; and recognition of the Taliban as a political party.

He said talks in Qatar ended earlier this year after the United States reneged on a promise to release five prisoners from Guantanamo Bay. "But those are just the famous ones," he said. "There are thousands more being held in Bagram and they are being held under the name of Taliban but they are innocent people, farmers and clerics."

The prisoner exchange issue is rife with sensitivity as the United States has sought to exchange American Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, captured by the Taliban in 2009, for Afghan Taliban held in Guantanamo. It appears the prisoner exchange fell through after the Afghan authorities demanded the five prisoners be repatriated to Afghanistan, according to an Afghan official who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to brief the media. The five prisoners have demanded they be allowed to go to Qatar with their families.

Motasim said he wasn't told why the prisoners were not released but when they weren't the hard-liners among the Taliban took it as a sign that the United States was disingenuous, said Motasim, who acknowledged that the Taliban have set up an office in Qatar.

He said the office has no official recognition as a political headquarters of the Taliban, rather it has been veiled in secrecy and the American interlocutors are engaging with them as insurgents not political representatives of at least some Afghans. Motasim said most of the Taliban who were negotiating with the Americans are on the U.N. sanctions list.

The U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions against the Taliban in November 1999 for refusing to send Osama bin Laden to the United States or a third country for trial on terrorism charges in connection with the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

Rampaging buffalo injures 10 in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A water buffalo injured 10 people in central Vietnam while rampaging down crowded streets, across a river and through a house before being gunned down at a kindergarten, an official said Monday.

The young male buffalo, normally a docile species used to plow rice fields, ran wild for about three hours over nearly 20 kilometers (12 miles) in Hue City, said local official Dang Van Ngan.

The 300-kilogram (660-pound) animal knocked over a motorbike, swam across a large river, broke down the wooden door of a house and collapsed a bed inside as three family members fled in terror, he added.

The animal bit an elderly woman who was crossing a street and she was hospitalized with head injuries. Nine other people received minor injuries, he said.

The buffalo also charged into a kindergarten where teachers raced to take eight children to safety on the second floor. The animal was corralled in the school's gated grounds, where it took two soldiers and eight bullets to finally bring it down.

Authorities still don't know where the buffalo came from and why it went wild, Ngan said, adding that no one has come forward to claim the animal.

Dalai Lama alleges poison plot; China cries foul

BEIJING (AP)—China accused the Dalai Lama of being deceitful Monday after he reportedly alleged that Chinese agents trained Tibetan women to assassinate him by planting poison in their hair for him to touch during blessings.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the Tibetan spiritual leader's allegations, reported in the London-based Sunday Telegraph newspaper, were not worth refuting, but added that he generally spreads false information.

Dalai Lama

"The Dalai always wears religious clothes while carrying out anti-China separatist activities in the global community, spreading false information and deceiving the public," spokesman Hong Lei said at a routine daily news briefing.

The nationalistic tabloid the Global Times further scorned the allegations in a commentary, saying that if China had wanted to kill the Dalai Lama it could have done so any time without waiting until he was 76 years old.

The Tibetan Buddhist leader told the Telegraph he had been warned that the Chinese government was training female Tibetan agents to put poison in their hair or scarves and to seek his blessings or touch his hand.

Hundreds of thousands of people take pilgrimages each year to northern Indian town of Dharmsala, where the Dalai Lama lives under tight security. Huge crowds also surround him during his travels abroad. The Tibetan leader usually places his hand over the heads of devotees seeking his blessing.

He told the newspaper he may ending up being the last Dalai Lama because of Chinese interference in finding his reincarnation after his death.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Plane crash kills15 in Nepal mountains; 6 survive

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A plane crashed into a mountain in the Himalayas while trying to land at an airport in northern Nepal on Monday, killing 15 people and injuring six, some critically. It was carrying two pilots and a flight attendant—all Nepalese—along with 16 Indians and two Danish citizens, both of whom survived, officials said. Television footage showed the Danes being taken inside a hospital in the nearby city of Pokhara, the man being led on foot and the woman crying in pain as she was carried on a stretcher. The plane was turning to land at Jomsom Airport when it crashed.

Bomb kills 9 at market in northern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Authorities say a bomb has exploded at a market in northern Afghanistan, killing nine people, including a local official. The Ministry of Interior says the bomb went off on Monday morning inside a shop in a market in Faryab province's Ghormuch district. The ministry's statement says the nine dead included a council member from a neighboring province. The ministry says it has no other details. In a separate statement Monday, the ministry said police killed 18 insurgents in operations across the country over the past 24 hours.

Lee makes 1st SKorean trip to Myanmar since attack

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar tightened security for a visit by President Lee Myung-bak on Monday, the first by a South Korean leader since an assassination attempt by North Korean commandos nearly 30 years ago. Lee flew to the capital Naypyitaw to meet with Myanmar President Thein Sein as part of a two-day visit that is expected to strengthen ties between the Asian countries, a statement from Lee's office said. The South Korean president is the latest dignitary to visit Myanmar as it transitions from a military dictatorship to a fledgling democracy and opens its massive investment potential to the eager international community.

Pakistani suggests NATO supplies should resume

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's foreign minister suggested Monday that the country should reopen its Afghan border to NATO troop supplies, saying the government has made its point by closing the route for nearly six months in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani troops. Reopening the border risks a domestic backlash in Pakistan given Washington's refusal to apologize for last year's attack, which it says was an accident. But it could help ensure Pakistan has a role in the future of Afghanistan as NATO prepares to retool its strategy there during a major conference that starts Sunday in Chicago.

World

Mexico cartel war latest toll: 49 headless bodies

CADEREYTA, Mexico (AP)—Authorities struggled Monday to identify 49 bodies without heads, hands or feet to gain clues into the latest in a series of massacres from an escalating war between Mexico's two dominant drug cartels, with increasing evidence that innocents are being pulled into the bloodbath along with gang rivals.

More than 24 hours after the gruesome discovery, officials had yet to identify any of the mutilated corpses found near the northern industrial city of Monterrey. None of the bodies examined so far showed signs of gunshots, Nuevo Leon state security spokesman Jorge Domene told Milenio television.

Though it was unclear who the victims were, it was the fourth massacre in a month. Mexico's interior secretary, Alejandro Poire, said Monday that all those incidents resulted from the fight between the Zetas gang and the Sinaloa Cartel, which have emerged in the last year as the two main forces in Mexican drug-trafficking and other organized crime.

Some victims in earlier body dumps have turned out to be bakers, brick layers, even students—anyone who could be snatched off the streets in mass killings that one captured gang member said were designed to "cause terror."

Poire would not respond directly when asked by The Associated Press if innocents have increasingly become targets.

"We don't have proper identification of the dead," he said. "We have to leave that to the investigation."

"We have to look deeper ... to know the motives or who could have been the victims of violence," Poire added. The 43 men and six women found Sunday were dumped at the entrance to the town of San Juan in the municipality of Cadereyta about 105 miles (175 kilometers) southwest

of McAllen, Texas.

Graffiti around the town of 4,000 people mark it as Zetas territory, including "100% Zeta" painted on a stone arch welcoming visitors where the bodies were dumped and "Z's" painted on the home of San Juan's priest.

There have been 74 killings in the first four months of this year in Cadereyta municipality, compared to 27 over the same period in 2011 and seven in 2010, according to figures from Nuevo Leon state prosecutors.

The massacre follows the discovery of 14 men left in a van in downtown Nuevo Laredo on April 17 and 23 people found hanged or decapitated in the same border city May 4.

Eighteen dismembered bodied were left near Mexico's second-largest city, Guadalajara, last week. Among the nine people identified in that attack were bricklayers, waiters and at least one student. None had criminal records.

Accused Zetas member Juan Carlos Antonio Mercado was arrested near Guadalajara last week in the kidnapping of 12 people. He told reporters that he and accomplices had been kidnapping people since mid-April at random and held them with the intent of dumping their bodies in the city center on May 10, Mexican Mother's Day, but the police presence kept them from doing so.

Prosecutors in Jalisco state, where Guadalajara is, said the kidnapping plot fell apart when some victims escaped. The plot appeared to be linked to the discovery of the 18 dismembered bodies.

Drug violence has killed more than 47,500 people since President Felipe Calderon launched a stepped-up offensive when he took office in December 2006. The campaign has seen the two cartels emerge as Mexico's two most powerful. At least one of the two cartels is present in nearly all of Mexico's 32 states.

Their war started in earnest last fall with the dumping of 35 bodies in Veracruz, a strategic smuggling state with a giant Gulf port formerly controlled by the Zetas and recently taken over by a gang loyal to Sinaloa.

Guadalajara has long been controlled by gangs loyal to Sinaloa. Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey are considered territory of the Zetas gang, which was founded by deserters from the Mexican army's special forces as the enforcement arm of the Gulf Cartel that historically dominated northeastern Mexico and the border along Texas. The groups split in early 2010, causing a bloody battle for territory that the Zetas have been winning. The weakened Gulf Cartel has started to align itself with Sinaloa to fight back.

Syrian unrest spills into Lebanon for 3rd day

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (AP)—Firing assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, Lebanese gunmen clashed in street battles Monday as sectarian tensions linked to the 14-month-old uprising in Syria bled across the border for a third day.

At least five people have been killed and 100 wounded in Lebanon's second-largest city since the gunbattles erupted late Saturday, security officials said. Residents say differences over Syria are at the root of the fighting, which pits neighbor against neighbor and raises fears of broader unrest that could draw in neighboring countries.

Lebanon and Syria share a complex web of political and sectarian ties and rivalries, which are easily enflamed. Tripoli has seen bouts of sectarian violence in the past, but the fighting has become more frequent as the conflict in Syria worsens.

The fighting camps break down along sectarian and political lines. On one side are Sunni Muslims who support the rebels trying to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad. On the other are members of the tiny Alawite sect, followers of an offshoot of Shiite Islam who are Assad's most loyal supporters.

The recent clashes were sparked by the arrest of Lebanese national Shadi Mawlawi, an outspoken critic of Assad. The Sunni fighters say the root of the latest conflict in Tripoli is across the border.

"Syria. It wants it this way. It wants to start a battle here so it can say, look, even in Lebanon the Sunnis are killing the Alawites," said Mustafa Nashar, 35, whose family lives in an apartment overlooking Syria Street, which cuts through the overwhelmingly Sunni Bab al-Tabbani neighborhood.

Posters supporting the Syrian opposition hang on walls, and pictures of a local activist shot by a sniper in similar clashes in February read "Greetings to the free martyrs of Syria" and bear the Syrian revolutionary flag.

Groups of men, many carrying assault rifles and wearing military-style vests, ducked through trash-strewn alleys. The residents who remained in the neighborhood took cues from fighters about when to sprint across alleys to evade the snipers up the hill.

A car with children crouching in the back sped past one alley, a bullet pinging the pavement behind it.

The Lebanese army set up a small position a few hundred meters (yards) away from the fighting, but no soldiers or police could be seen in the immediate area.

Mohammed Jaber, a 49-year-old fighter and Tripoli resident, said local fighting has been going on for decades in Tripoli, but the Syria unrest has set it off again.

"The old has become new," he said. "Once the Syrian revolution started, we supported all efforts to get rid of the regime." Sunnis comprise the majority in Syria, but Assad and his fellow Alawites play an outsized role in the country's government and security forces, prompting seething resentments. Inspired by the revolts in Tunisia and Egypt, Syrian protesters defied the authoritarian regime and began taking to the streets in March 2011 to call for political reform.

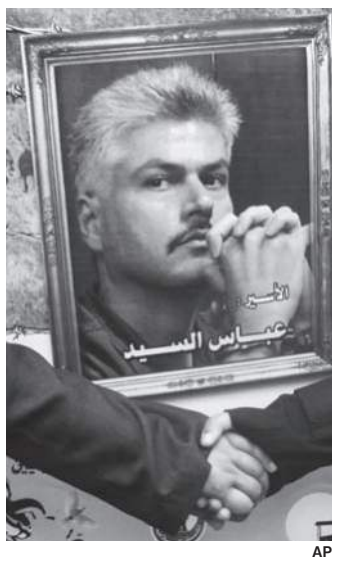
Palestinian prisoners agree to end hunger strike

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners agreed to halt a weekslong hunger strike on Monday in exchange for promises of better conditions, ending a standoff that left several participants clinging to life and drew thousands of Palestinians to the streets in shows of solidarity.

The Palestinians won key concessions in a deal mediated by Egyptian officials, including more family visits and limits to a controversial Israeli policy that can imprison people for years without charge. In return, Israel extracted pledges by militant groups to halt violent activities, and prevented the potentially explosive scenario of prisoners dying of hunger.

The fate of the prisoners deeply emotional for Palestinians, where nearly everyone has a neighbor or relative who has spent time in an Israeli jail. Hundreds of Palestinians took to the streets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip each day to show solidarity with the inmates, often holding pictures of their imprisoned loved ones.

In Gaza City, Palestinians cried for joy and praised God over blaring loudspeakers upon news of the deal. "God is Great! To God is our thanks!" they chanted. Thousands waved the colorful Palestinian flag, distributed sweets and prostrated themselves in thanks. The deal ended one of the largest mass strikes of Palestinian prisoners. Two men launched the strike on Feb. 28, refusing food for 77 days, becoming the longest ever Palestinian hunger strikers. At least 1,600 other Palestinian prisoners, more than a third of the prison population, joined the strike on April 17, fasting for 27 days.



AP

Palestinian women hold hands next to a portrait of a prisoner during a solidarity protest with Palestinian prisoners jailed in Israeli, in Gaza City, Monday, May 14, 2012.

With the Palestinians already planning mass demonstrations for their annual day of mourning on Tuesday, both sides were eager to reach agreement to avoid spreading anger over the issue. Palestinians use May 15 to commemorate their suffering that resulted from Israel's establishment 64 years ago, a day they call the "nakba" or "catastrophe."

"The prisoners have proved to the whole world that empty stomachs are more powerful than any ruler or oppressor," said a spokesman for Gaza's Hamas rulers, Fawzi Barhoum.

AP

Forensic police officers work in the courtyard of Sant' Apollinare Basilica, in Rome, Monday, May 14, 2012.

Vatican mystery intensifies, bones found in grave

ROME (AP)—Forensic police swarmed the crypt of a Roman basilica on Monday to exhume the body of a reputed mobster as part of an investigation into one of the Vatican's most enduring mysteries: the 1983 disappearance of the teenage daughter of one of its employees.

Medical experts took samples from the remains of Enrico De Pedis and also took boxes of old bones from the nearby ossuary, according to a De Pedis family lawyer, as part of the investigation into whether Emanuela Orlandi may have been buried alongside him.

Orlandi was 15 when she disappeared in 1983 after leaving her family's Vatican City apartment to go to a music lesson in Rome. Her father was a lay employee of the Holy See.

De Pedis, a member of Rome's Magliana mob, was killed in 1990. His one-time girlfriend has reportedly told prosecutors that De Pedis kidnapped Orlandi, and an anonymous caller in 2005 told a call-in television show that the answer to Orlandi's disappearance lay in his tomb.

Amid a new push to resolve the case, the Vatican said last month it had no objections to opening the tomb. On Monday, Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi said the inspection of the De Pedis tomb was "certainly a positive fact" aimed at carrying out "all possible steps so the investigation could be completed.

"The prosecutors' office can continue to count on the full collaboration of the church authorities," Lombardi said in comments to reporters.

The scene Monday outside the Sant'Apollinare basilica was hectic, with television cameras jostling for views inside the chapel and the adjacent courtyard of the Opus Dei-run Pontifical Holy Cross University, where forensic vans came and went.

Focus

Newly discovered MAYAN calendar goes way past '12

By DAN VERGANO
USA TODAY

Newly discovered wall writings found in Guatemala show the famed Maya culture's obsession with cycles of time. But they also show calendars that go well beyond 2012, the year when the vanished civilization, according to popular culture, expected the end of the world.

"So much for the supposed end of the world," says archaeologist William Saturno of Boston University, lead author of a study in the journal Science, which reported the discovery on Thursday.

Discovered in the ruins of Xultun (SHOOL-toon) , the astronomical calendar was unearthed from a filled-in scribe's room. While about 7 million Maya people still live in Central America today, the "Classic" Maya civilization of pyramid temples had collapsed there by about 900 A.D., leaving only a few birch-bark books dating to perhaps the 14th century as records of their astronomy, until now.

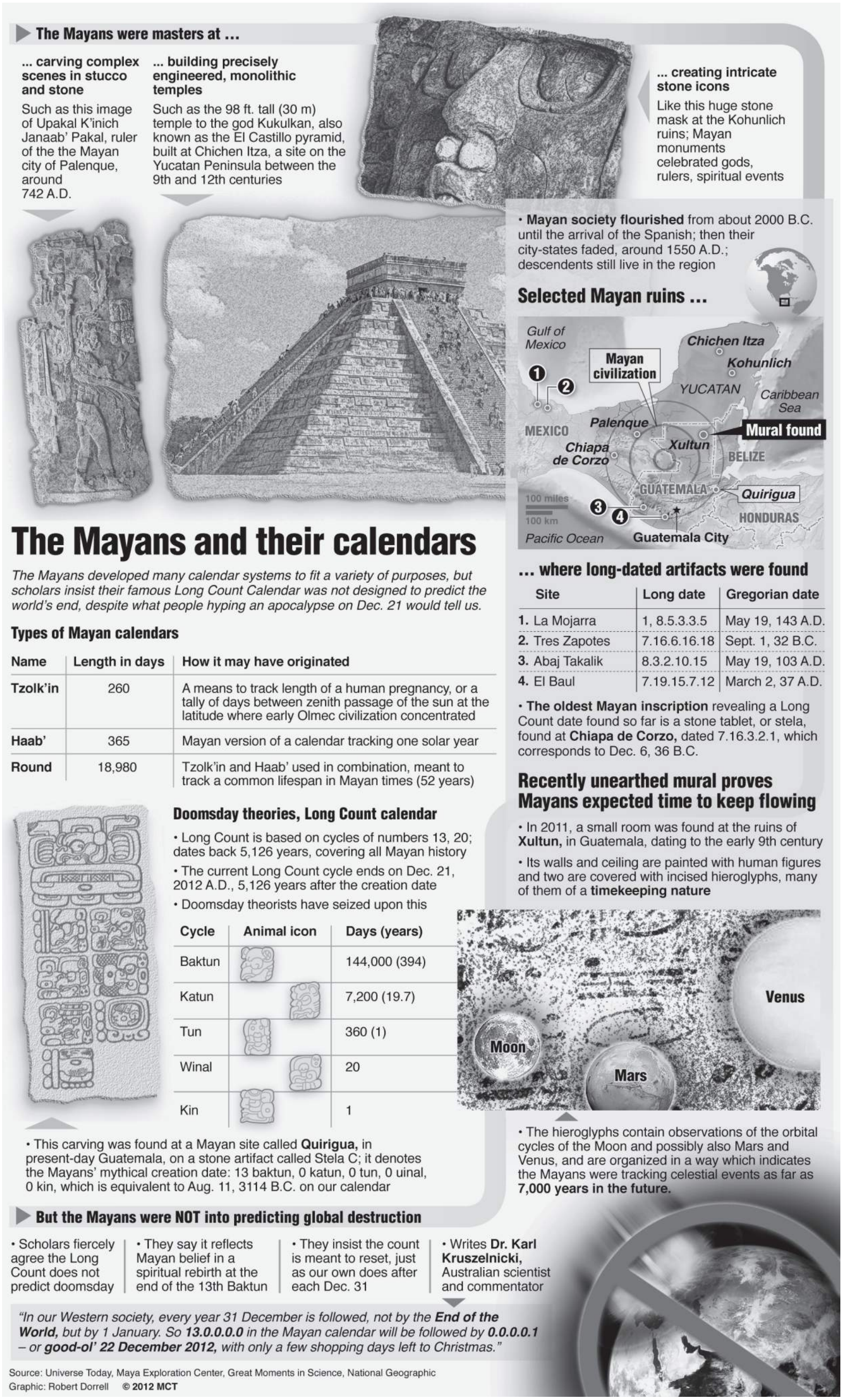
"The numbers we found indicate an obsession with time and cycles of time, some of them very large," Saturno says. "Maya scribes most likely transcribed the numbers on the wall in this room into (books) just like the ones later seen by conquistadors."

Explorers first reported the site of Xultun, once a large Maya center, in 1915. But it was only two years ago that National Geographic Society-funded archaeologists noted a small residential room partly exposed by looters. The room's walls proved to hold murals and small, delicate hieroglyphs inscribed in rows between paintings of scribes and rulers that not only corresponded to a 260 day ceremonial calendar and 365-day year, but the 584-day sky track of Venus and 780-day one of Mars.

Examination of the rows shows they are columns of numbers and symbols similar to lunar eclipse calculations found in early 16th century Maya writings that tied astronomical events to rituals. Some of them include dates corresponding to a time after the year 3500.

"A fascinating discovery and a first in Maya archaeology," says Maya anthropologist Victoria Bricker of Tulane University in New Orleans. She notes its conclusive linkage of the later books to the Classic Maya calendar carved in stone dating back to before 300 A.D. The room's wall calculations likely served as a blackboard for scribes, in a society where festivals, rituals and farming were tied to astronomical observations.

"Seeing the actual writing on the wall certainly gives us a little insight into history," says Maya writing expert Simon Martin, co-curator of the "Maya 2012: Lords of Time" exhibition now ongoing at Philadelphia's Penn Museum. Although once viewed as peaceful star-gazers, more recent scholarly work has revealed that politics, war and trade dominated ancient Maya society. "We're seeing the pendulum swing back with this discovery, where we can now see astronomy playing a role in ordering their society," Martin says.


The Mayans were masters at ...
... carving complex scenes in stucco and stone
Such as this image of Upakal K'inich Janaab' Pakal, ruler of the the Mayan city of Palenque, around 742 A.D.
... building precisely engineered, monolithic temples
Such as the 98 ft. tall (30 m) temple to the god Kukulkan, also known as the El Castillo pyramid, built at Chichen Itza, a site on the Yucatan Peninsula between the 9th and 12th centuries
... creating intricate stone icons
Like this huge stone mask at the Kohunlich ruins; Mayan monuments celebrated gods, rulers, spiritual events
• Mayan society flourished from about 2000 B.C. until the arrival of the Spanish; then their city-states faded, around 1550 A.D.; descendents still live in the region
Selected Mayan ruins ...
Gulf of Mexico
Chichen Itza
Kohunlich
Mayan civilization
YUCATAN
Caribbean Sea
MEXICO
Palenque
Mural found
Chiapa de Corzo
Xultun
BELIZE
GUATEMALA
Quirigua
100 miles
100 km
HONDURAS
Pacific Ocean
Guatemala City
The Mayans and their calendars
The Mayans developed many calendar systems to fit a variety of purposes, but scholars insist their famous Long Count Calendar was not designed to predict the world's end, despite what people hyping an apocalypse on Dec. 21 would tell us.
Types of Mayan calendars
Name | Length in days | How it may have originated
Tzolk'in | 260 | A means to track length of a human pregnancy, or a tally of days between zenith passage of the sun at the latitude where early Olmec civilization concentrated
Haab' | 365 | Mayan version of a calendar tracking one solar year
Round | 18,980 | Tzolk'in and Haab' used in combination, meant to track a common lifespan in Mayan times (52 years)
Doomsday theories, Long Count calendar
• Long Count is based on cycles of numbers 13, 20; dates back 5,126 years, covering all Mayan history
• The current Long Count cycle ends on Dec. 21, 2012 A.D., 5,126 years after the creation date
• Doomsday theorists have seized upon this
Cycle | Animal icon | Days (years)
Baktun | | 144,000 (394)
Katun | | 7,200 (19.7)
Tun | | 360 (1)
Winal | | 20
Kin | | 1
• This carving was found at a Mayan site called Quirigua, in present-day Guatemala, on a stone artifact called Stela C; it denotes the Mayans' mythical creation date: 13 baktun, 0 katun, 0 tun, 0 uinal, 0 kin, which is equivalent to Aug. 11, 3114 B.C. on our calendar
... where long-dated artifacts were found
Site | Long date | Gregorian date
1. La Mojarra | 1, 8.5.3.3.5 | May 19, 143 A.D.
2. Tres Zapotes | 7.16.6.16.18 | Sept. 1, 32 B.C.
3. Abaj Takalik | 8.3.2.10.15 | May 19, 103 A.D.
4. El Baul | 7.19.15.7.12 | March 2, 37 A.D.
• The oldest Mayan inscription revealing a Long Count date found so far is a stone tablet, or stela, found at Chiapa de Corzo, dated 7.16.3.2.1, which corresponds to Dec. 6, 36 B.C.
Recently unearthed mural proves Mayans expected time to keep flowing
• In 2011, a small room was found at the ruins of Xultun, in Guatemala, dating to the early 9th century
• Its walls and ceiling are painted with human figures and two are covered with incised hieroglyphs, many of them of a timekeeping nature
Venus
Moon
Mars
• The hieroglyphs contain observations of the orbital cycles of the Moon and possibly also Mars and Venus, and are organized in a way which indicates the Mayans were tracking celestial events as far as 7,000 years in the future.
But the Mayans were NOT into predicting global destruction
• Scholars fiercely agree the Long Count does not predict doomsday
• They say it reflects Mayan belief in a spiritual rebirth at the end of the 13th Baktun
• They insist the count is meant to reset, just as our own does after each Dec. 31
• Writes Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki, Australian scientist and commentator
"In our Western society, every year 31 December is followed, not by the End of the World, but by 1 January. So 13.0.0.0.0 in the Mayan calendar will be followed by 0.0.0.0.1 – or good-ol' 22 December 2012, with only a few shopping days left to Christmas."
Source: Universe Today, Maya Exploration Center, Great Moments in Science, National Geographic
Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2012 MCT

Campus Life

GCA's Aldan, Francisco top CCAC's poster contest

Tommy Aldan and Joyce Liv Francisco from Grace Christian Academy's second grade class under Rachel Epperson captured top awards in this year's Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture's poster contest.

CCAC invited grades 1 to 3 students from public and private schools to make a poster about the coconut in celebration of the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival last April.

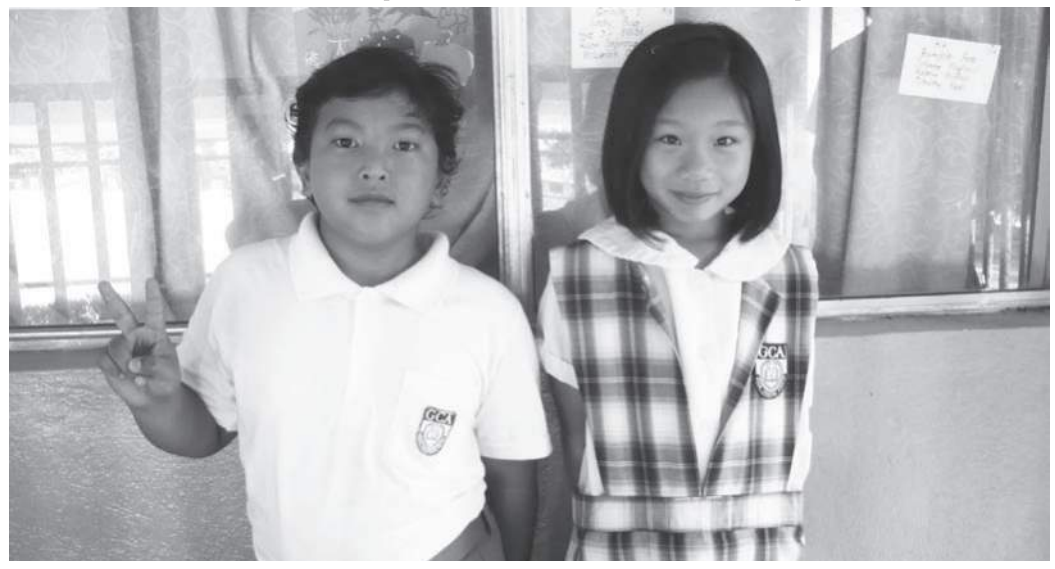
Aldan will receive $100 cash prize for winning first place and second placer Francisco will receive $75 cash prize from the council. Both of them made a poster of coconut with an island scene during their art class.

"All GCA students from grades 1 to 3 made their posters during their art classes in school and I helped them in mounting and framing them," said art teacher Esther Manzano.

This is Aldan's first year at GCA and his first time to win first place in an islandwide contest. "I was really happy to win," he said.

GCA kindergarten teacher Marilyn Aldan, the mother of Aldan, said, "I was really surprised! I even asked Mrs. Manzano, 'What did he do?'"

Francisco, who just enrolled at GCA this school year, was born and went to school in California. This was also Francisco's first time to win an award as a GCA student.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's CCAC art contest top winners Tommy Aldan and Joyce Liv Francisco have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

Francisco's parents, Jeffrey and Crizelda Francisco, were both happy and proud of their daughter's award. "She was really surprised and never thought that she will win. She never told us about the contest," said Crizelda Francisco.

Even though this is their first year at Grace Christian Academy, Manzano has already seen their artistic talents. Both students' artwork have been displayed a lot of times in the weekly "Best Art Works" for grades 1 to 6 students.

Manzano said, "We are thankful for all the talents that God gave to our students especially in art. We have eight art winners in different art contests this school year." ***(GCA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Essay contest first place winner Alyssa Jean Pantaleon has her picture taken inside the GCA campus.

GCA's Pantaleon tops CCAC's essay contest

Alyssa Jean "AJ" Pantaleon, a seventh-grade student at Grace Christian Academy, topped this year's Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture's essay contest for middle school students.

CCAC invited grades 7 and 8 students from public and private schools to write an essay about coconuts in celebration of the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival last April.

The 12-year-old Pantaleon wrote that, "A coconut is a drupe, meaning it is not a true nut. The various parts of the coconut have many culinary uses. Some people from other countries have allergic reactions to coconut." She said she was able to finish her essay after two days. Pantaleon is still waiting for her $100 cash prize from the Council.

It was her first time to win first place in an islandwide contest, but she said, "When I heard about the contest, I felt confident and told myself I will win first place. I prayed to God to help me win. When they told me I got first place, I was surprised and was really very happy. I thank God for helping me win."

Her parents, Jess and Ana Pantaleon, said, "We were both happy and proud when we heard that she won first place. We are grateful to the committee for having this kind of contest to encourage kids to write and be aware of the things around them. We pray that this experience would encourage our daughter to write more and express herself."

Pantaleon was the only GCA student who submitted an essay for the contest. Art teacher Esther Manzano, who registered all the CCAC poster, crafts, and essay entries, said, "I admire AJ for making a difference. Out of 58 grades 7 and 8 students from GCA, she was the only one who approached me after she saw the announcement on one of the bulletin boards and said she wants to join the essay contest."

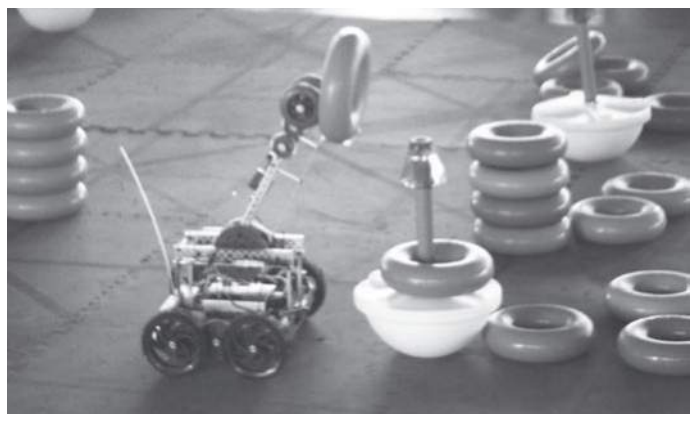
GCA's second placer and alternate to the GCA Spelling Bee participant in Guam last school year, Pantaleon has been joining other competitions such as Bible Sword Drill and PGFC since her elementary level and has been a GCA student since K5. ***(GCA)***

'Yap Robo Day' features robotics competition in Micronesia

High school students in Yap, Micronesia held an inaugural robotics exhibition last week, ushering in a new era in math, science and engineering education on the remote Pacific Island.

Student teams from Yap Catholic High School and Yap SDA school designed and built robots from VEX robotics over the course of the 2011-2012 school year. The kits were a gift from the Habele Outer Island Education Fund. The schools also received instructional materials from Habele as well as remote technical support from U.S. students attending Chaminade Prep in California.

"Yap Robo Day," as it was called, was held at the Community Center in Colonia, Yap. Nearly 100 parents, students, educators, and public officials came to watch and support the teams. Their robots were able to pick up plastic rings, carry these across the arena, and carefully position the rings onto small poles of different heights.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robots pick up plastic rings, carry these across the arena, and carefully position the rings onto small poles of different heights.

Despite weeks of careful planning and preparation, both teams faced a range of minor technical challenges on the day of the event. Motors overheated, remote control frequencies overlapped and certain robot parts did not function exactly as planned. Still, the exhibit provided both teams a chance to show their families and members of the community all their hard work.

"This was a great day for the students," explained Larry Raigetal of Habele. "We saw real science on display as both teams used reasoning and experimental observation to identify problems, make corrections, and integrate new knowledge into what they'd already learned."

Rev. Michael P. Corcoran, S.J., the principal at Yap Catholic High School, echoed Raigetal's excitement. "Looking back on the whole experience, I must say that it was excellent for our students."

"Our students had a sense of pride and accomplishment," Corcoran said. "I think the final week's frustrations and consequent adjustments were one of the best aspects of the whole semester. It was like watching engineers deal with real world problems!"

Habele has already begun to solicit donations in order to fund the program for the 2012-2013 school year. The U.S.-based organization also supports low-income students enrolled at Yap Catholic and other private schools across Micronesia through tuition scholarships. The charity was established by former Peace Corps volunteers and does not seek—and will not accept—funding from government sources. This year it also awarded funds to Waa'gey, a program that passes on traditional skills of canoe carving and weaving to students on Yap.

"We have limited resources, but we will continue to target them to programs and projects that work for students," explained Neil Mellen, a U.S.-based Habele sirector. "Too few students graduate from high school in Micronesia, and just a fraction of those who do are career or college ready. The success of the robotics teams reminds us that every student across the Pacific is capable of excellence." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Student teams from Yap Catholic High School and Yap SDA school have their picture taken after participating in the "Yap Robo Day" at the Community Center in Colonia, Yap.

Life&Style

Britney Spears joining Fox's 'The X Factor'

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears and Demi Lovato are joining the judging panel on "The X Factor" this fall, part of Fox's effort to boost its underperforming music competition shows.

The network's executives, in presenting next season's schedule to advertisers on Monday, also promised changes for "American Idol." While "Idol" remains Fox's centerpiece, as it has been for the past decade, it has lost a quarter of its audience this year.

Fox is adding two new comedies and a drama in the fall, pumping new life into "Glee" by moving it to a new night with guest stars Kate Hudson and Sarah Jessica Parker and touting a midseason drama starring Kevin Bacon as "the new `24.'"

The Spears announcement overshadowed the others. Despite weeks of rumors, it wasn't official until she strode onto New York's Beacon Theater stage wearing a white minidress, accompanied by show creator Simon Cowell and fellow judges Lovato and L.A. Reid.

"I'm so excited about the whole experience," Spears said. "It's going to be so much fun and different from anything I've ever done. I'm ready to find the true star."

Lovato said she was "totally stoked" to join the cast.

They replace judges Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger, who were dispatched along with host Steve Jones after last fall's debut season of the competition didn't meet the creator's inflated expectations.

"Not to be negative about the people leaving, but we just felt the mix could be more effective and more entertaining," said Peter Rice, entertainment chairman for the Fox Networks Group.

Fox's entertainment president, Kevin Reilly, also promised work on "American Idol" next season but didn't specify anything.

"This year was a bigger drop-off than we anticipated," Reilly said.

He said "Idol" made no changes from the previous year and there was little "urgency to view" at the beginning of the season. He said there was still a lot of life left in the franchise.

"Glee," once a sensation, saw its viewership drop by 21 percent this season. It will move to Thursday nights and a comfortable 9 p.m. Eastern time slot following "The X Factor" in the fall. Reilly said the show is "poised for a creative renaissance" and has Hudson and Parker lined up for multi-episode guest slots.

Part of the reason Fox moved "Glee" is to make Tuesday a four-sitcom night, with two new shows joining "New Girl" and "Raising Hope." Mindy Kaling, actress, producer and writer for "The Office," creates and stars in "The Mindy Project," a romantic comedy about a doctor looking for love. The other new comedy, "Ben and Kate," is about a pair of odd couple siblings.

"We've been building comedy momentum on Tuesday, and we finally have the shows that have exactly the tone that we are looking for," Reilly said.

The fall's only new drama is "The Mob Doctor," on Monday night, about a young doctor who has to pay off her family's lifelong debt to the Chicago mob.

Reilly said Bacon's hiring for the midseason drama "The Following" was the casting coup of the year. Bacon plays a former FBI agent asked to come back to work to chase a serial killer he had caught once before. The killer escaped from prison and has resumed a series of grisly murders.

Another comedy focused on a family, "The Goodwin Games," is due at midseason and stars actor Scott Foley, of "Felicity" and "Grey's Anatomy."

Fox's long-running drama "House" is ending its run this spring, and the network is cancelling high-profile dramas "Terra Nova" and "Alcatraz."

Fox also has made changes to its long-running Saturday night lineup, where "COPS" won't return until midseason. In the fall, Fox will present live sports events such as college football, Major League baseball and NASCAR races that night.

AP

"The X Factor" judges, from left, L.A. Reid, Demi Lovato, Simon Cowell and Britney Spears attend the FOX network upfront presentation party at Wollman Rink, Monday, May 14, 2012 in New York.

Bret Michaels settles case over 2009 Tonys mishap

NEW YORK (AP)—Bret Michaels and organizers of the Tony Awards have settled a lawsuit filed by the rocker after a 2009 incident in which he was hit in the head with a set piece and suffered injuries that he claimed contributed to a brain hemorrhage that nearly killed him.

The confidential settlement also covers Michaels' claims against CBS Broadcasting, which aired the show and the mishap. The Poison frontman blamed the network for airing the moment, which became which a viral video watched by tens of millions of people online, and claimed Tony Awards producers never warned him there would be a set change after he and his band performed "Nothin' But a Good Time."

Michaels

The whack initially left Michaels with a busted lip and broken nose but also caused brain bleeding, the lawsuit claimed. He was hospitalized in April 2010, and doctors found he had a brain hemorrhage and he later suffered a warning stroke, which the musician says nearly killed him.

Michaels' attorney Alex Weingarten said details of the settlement would not be released. "Mr. Michaels would like to thank his fans for their continued support," he wrote in a statement.

Michaels sued in March 2011 in Los Angeles, but a judge later moved the case to New York City. The agreement came after a mediation session was held on Friday.

Representatives for CBS and the Tonys released a joint statement saying that "an amicable resolution" had been reached but no further details would be released.

The musician and reality television star did not state how much compensation he was seeking when he sued but said the injury hurt his ability to perform at later shows.

Obama on gay marriage: 'Right thing to do'

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday defended his view that gay couples should have the right to marry, saying that the country has never gone wrong when it "expanded rights and responsibilities to everybody."

"That doesn't weaken families. That strengthens families," he told gay and lesbian supporters and others at a fundraiser hosted by singer Ricky Martin and the LGBT Leadership Council. "It's the right thing to do."

The remarks were his first to such an audience since he announced his personal support for same-sex marriage last week. They came on a day that Obama was making a targeted appeal to three core voting blocs—women, young people, and gays and lesbians. He gave a commencement address to Barnard College, a women's college, and taped an interview on "The View," a popular day-time talk show aimed at women.

Democrats hope Obama's politically risky embrace of gay marriage will re-energize supporters who had been frustrated by his previous assertions that his views on the hot-button social issue were "evolving."

Women, young people and gay voters all made up crucial voting blocs for Obama in the 2008 election. With the president locked in a close race with Republican rival Mitt Romney, his campaign is focused on rallying support among those groups once again.

"At root, so much of this has to do with a belief that not only are we all in this together but all of us are equal in terms of dignity and in terms of respect, and everybody deserves a shot," he told about 200 supporters at the fundraising event.

Obama also called for repealing the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. His administration has refused to defend the law in court challenges, and while Obama has voiced support for its repeal before, he specifically listed repeal as a goal.

Romney has said he believes that marriage is defined as being between a man and a woman. Although Obama did not mention Romney's stance, he cast his challenger as a "rubber stamp" for congressional Republicans and cited his 2008 opponent, Sen. John McCain, as a far more independent Republican who believed in climate change and in the need for overhauling the immigration system.

"What we've got this time out is a candidate who's said he would basically rubber stamp the Republican Congress and who wants us to go backwards and not forward," Obama said.

Earlier in the day, during his address at Barnard, Obama urged the graduates to fight for their place at "the head of the table" and help lead a country still battered by economic woes toward brighter days. "I believe that the women of this generation will help lead the way," he said.

The president's choice of Barnard as his first commencement address of the spring underscored the intense focus both candidates have placed on women. An Associated Press-GfK poll conducted earlier this month showed Obama with a sizable advantage over Romney with women voters, 54 percent to 39 percent.

Obama acknowledged that today's college graduates are entering a shaky job market. To those who say overcoming the nation's challenges isn't possible, Obama said, "Don't believe it." He told the graduates that if they ever despair, they should think of the country's history and what young generations before them have achieved.

"Young folks who marched and mobilized and stood up and sat in from Seneca Falls to Selma to Stonewall they didn't just do it for themselves, they did it for other people," Obama said. "That's how we achieved women's rights, that's how we achieved voting rights, that's how we achieved workers' rights, that's how we achieved gay rights, that's how we've made this union more perfect."

After the speech, Obama taped an appearance on ABC's "The View," which was to air Tuesday. When asked if he would personally fight to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, he replied, "Well, look, Congress is clearly on notice that I think it's a bad idea." He also pointed to the $2 billion loss in high-risk trading at JPMorgan Chase to reiterate the need for Wall Street reforms.

Tickets for the fundraiser hosted by Martin and the LGBT Leadership Council started at $5,000 per person.

AP

President Barack Obama appears on the ABC's television show "The View" in New York, Monday.

Bobby Brown says his new album represents healing

NEW YORK (AP)—Bobby Brown says it took him a long time to come out with a new album because he's spent so much time trying to get his life on track.

Now on tour with bandmates New Edition, Brown says he's ready to return to his solo career with the album "Masterpiece," due out June 5.

"It's what I've been through throughout my life, and just trying to heal myself through my music," the 43-year-old singer said in a recent interview.

"Masterpiece" is Brown's first album in 14 years. He was a multiplatinum star with New Edition and later developed his solo career. But his well-documented battle with drugs and his legal woes led to his musical decline. His turbulent marriage to Whitney Houston further eroded his image.

In a recent interview with the "Today" show's Matt Lauer, Brown denied that he got his late ex-wife addicted to drugs. Houston's career was derailed by her drug use, which came to the public's attention during her marriage to Brown. The superstar drowned in February in Beverly Hills, Calif.; her death was complicated by heart disease and cocaine use, according to authorities.

"The Matt Lauer interview was just for me to clear the air about what everyone was feeling about my ex-wife's death," Brown said.

Although he was arrested for DUI in March, Brown insists he has been drug-free for more than seven years. He said his attempt to get his life in order is part of the reason why the album took so long to make.

"When you're working on yourself, you have to really concentrate on working on yourself and it takes a back seat to what you want to do and what I'm gonna do," he said.

Brown says "Masterpiece," which he started working on last year, is "the best album I've done so far.

Brown

"But I'm going to do better in the near future," he said. "I just want to get back to what I do, which is entertainment, and this is the start to me getting back to what I want to do."

Brown is engaged to his manager, Alicia Etheridge, with whom he has a young son. He also has other older children, including 19-year-old Bobbi Kristina, his only child with Houston.

Brown said he and Etheridge plan a private wedding, and described his life as content.

"I'm happy right now in my life, I'm comfortable with who I am," he said. "It's just better."

'Swamp People' cast member Mitchell Guist dies

PIERRE PART, La. (AP)—A cast member of the reality TV show "Swamp People" died Monday, a Louisiana sheriff said.

Assumption Parish Sheriff Mike Waguespack said Mitchell Guist was pronounced dead at a hospital. He had fallen while aboard his boat on the Intracoastal Waterway, near Pierre Part.

History, which produces the reality show with Original Media, said Guist would have turned 49 on Friday.

"We are extremely saddened to report that our friend and beloved member of the Swamp People family, Mitchell Guist, has passed away. ... Mitchell passed on the swamp, doing what he loved. We appreciate your respect for the Guist family's privacy and hope you join us in sending our thoughts and prayers to his brother, Glenn, and the rest of the Guist family," the network said in a statement.

Initial reports from deputies in neighboring St. Martin Parish are that Guist was traveling on the waterway around 9 a.m. when he fell, Waguespack said. The boat returned to a nearby landing in St. Martin and Guist was taken to a hospital. The cause of his fall is unclear, and there is no word yet on the official cause of death.

WAFB-TV reports 911 tapes were released later Monday, revealing the lengths people in the Belle River community went to try and revive Guist. Witnesses called the emergency response number and asked for ambulances or a helicopter.

"You say he's in cardiac arrest?" the dispatcher said on the call.

"Yes sir, we're blowing and pumping the guy's chest right now," the caller said. "It looks like he may have had a heart attack."

"Swamp People," on the History cable television channel, features residents of Louisiana's Atchafalaya swamp country during alligator hunting season.

Modern Family's Sarah Hyland reveals kidney transplant

LOS ANGELES—Sarah Hyland has been keeping a pretty big secret for a very long time: The 21-year-old "Modern Family" actress has grappled with kidney disease since she was in single digits.

The good news? In April she got a kidney transplant, and now she's sharing her story, via Seventeen and "Good Morning America."

"My dad gave me a freakin' kidney!" she told Seventeen, which features her on its June/July cover. She said she knew she could always count on her family for support, but "it's also the families that you create outside of your family. And you really find out what kind of people you're friends with." It was, she said, an eye-opening experience.

She told the magazine she was especially lucky to have boyfriend Matt Prokop, whom she met on "High School Musical 3" a few years back. He also made a "Modern Family" appearance this past season as her TV beau.

"He helps me with my medication and takes me to doctor appointments and all the stuff that I need to do to take care of myself," she said. "Any other 21-year-old guy would not be there, I guarantee it. I am one of the luckiest people in the world to have him be there for me."

Though she was diagnosed with kidney dysplasia at age 9, Hyland had to wait for her painful, fatigue-inducing condition to deteriorate before a kidney transplant was an option, according to Monday's "GMA" report. That meant some rough times on the job for the child of two actors who has been working since she debuted as Howard Stern's daughter in "Private Parts," filmed when she was 5.

LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT
Sarah Hyland arrives at the 68th Annual Golden Globe Awards on Sunday, January 16, 2011, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

"If you're sick you still go to work and in between takes you sit down or you lay your head down or something," Hyland told "GMA," explaining that she had dealt with her health needs in character.

"I try to make it so that Haley's always sitting down. If you notice she's sitting down a lot, texting, or like leaning on something, texting." After surgery, she said, she also was able to lean on Julie Bowen, her on-screen mom, who swung by to help with things like cleaning her apartment.

The show is on hiatus now, giving Hyland months to recover. She has also teamed with the George Lopez Foundation as a youth ambassador. (The comedian is also a kidney transplant recipient.)

She seemed giddy with her prospects for the future—"I have a kidney in me now!"—and at peace with her life so far.

"If you ask, 'Why me?,' well, why not you? You know? It makes you the person that you are today."

Actress accused of stalking Baldwin is upbeat

NEW YORK (AP)—A Canadian actress accused of stalking Alec Baldwin was upbeat Monday about the case as her lawyer said she had a legitimate reason for contacting the star.

Baldwin

"I'm confident that my lawyers are going to solve this," Genevieve Sabourin said after a brief, procedural appearance in a Manhattan court.

Baldwin, 54, and Sabourin, 40, met on the set of the 2002 sci-fi comedy "The Adventures of Pluto Nash," in which he had a cameo and she was a publicist. Baldwin told authorities they had dinner together in the fall of 2010.

Sabourin was arrested last month after authorities said she sent the "30 Rock" star a series of emails imploring him to see and to marry her—emails allegedly sent days after Baldwin became engaged to yoga instructor Hilaria Thomas.

One of Sabourin's messages envisioned the actor as her future "husband," while another described "creating Genevieve Baldwin," the complaint said. Authorities said she also showed up at a screening he was hosting and at Baldwin's apartment building, where she was arrested April 8 on misdemeanor stalking and harassment charges.

"I just came over to see Alec because I need to speak with him," she told police, according to a court document filed late last month. She also is believed to have turned up unannounced at his home in the Hamptons in March.

But defense lawyer Maurice Sercarz said Sabourin had a relationship with the actor, but he wouldn't describe the ties between the two. A prior Sabourin lawyer said they had a two-year "mutual relationship."

"There was no effort at harassment, and there was no stalking here," Sercarz said after the court hearing. "My client had a legitimate purpose for her efforts to contact Mr. Baldwin."

Baldwin's publicist declined to comment Monday.

Baldwin and Thomas, 28, began dating last year. Baldwin previously was married to actress Kim Basinger; they have a daughter, Ireland.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I am so hooked on "Scandal," the new midseason show on ABC, and I am especially glad to see Tony Goldwyn in a strong supporting role. How is he liking his new role as president of the United States?—Tina W., Atlanta

Tony Goldwyn

A: Like you, I love "Scandal," so I jumped at the opportunity to speak with Tony about his new role. He told me: "First of all, turning down the role of the president of the United States is difficult. That's going to be an interesting character, but particularly I knew that with Shonda Rhimes writing a president that he'd be a pretty interesting president. The script was really well written and just a great recipe for really good storytelling. "As an actor, I felt like these gifts kept being dropped in my lap. I'm really grateful to Shonda for involving me; each episode, I couldn't believe the stuff that I was getting to do. By the end of the season, it gets really interesting." Go to celebrityextraonline.com to read my entire interview with Tony, where he gives inside info about what to expect by season's end.

■ ■ ■

Q: One of my favorite screen actors of all time is Anthony Hopkins. What can I see him in next?—Jared G., via e-mail

A: Presently, Anthony is filming "Hitchcock," a movie about "Psycho," "Rear Window" and "Birds" director Alfred Hitchcock. Unless you want to wait until 2013 for the movie, Google "Anthony Hopkins Hitchcock" to see the eerily true-to-life transformation of the enigmatic actor to the horror auteur through the magic of makeup and prosthetics. The film also stars Helen Mirren, Scarlett Johansson and Jessica Beal, and definitely on my must-see list for 2013.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can you tell me what Brandon Routh has coming up?—Theresa G., Brighton Beach, N.Y.

A: Brandon has a new movie coming out May 18, which is quite a departure from portraying the Man of Steel. Brandon stars in "Crooked Arrows," about a reluctant coach who takes on a Native American lacrosse team. I spoke with Crystal Allen, who plays Brandon's love interest in the film, and she told me: "Brandon's character, Joe, and I were high-school sweethearts. I give him a hard time. I challenge him throughout the movie. Brandon is such a nice guy, and he's got such a presence on film. He just really shines and he's really moving. He was great to work with."

■ ■ ■

Q: How is Guiliana Rancic doing after beating breast cancer last year?—Audrey T., via e-mail

A: Guiliana, who beat breast cancer after undergoing a successful double mastectomy last year, is expecting a baby—via surrogate—with husband Bill. The baby, who is due later this year, is genetically Guiliana and Bill's; however, due to Guiliana's health issues, they decided to go with a surrogate to make sure the baby has a greater chance to be carried to full term.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

New dad Chris Hemsworth at 'The Huntsman' premiere

LONDON (AP)—Actor Chris Hemsworth has two things to celebrate.

He was at the world premiere Monday night of his new movie, "Snow White and the Huntsman," with co-stars Charlize Theron and Kristen Stewart in London.

And it was his first red carpet event since becoming a dad.

Hemsworth's partner, Elsa Pataky, has given birth to a daughter named India.

The Australian actor said that "everyone's healthy and well" but he was "a little anxious" to be at the premiere.

"Everything's sort of come colliding at once and I'm trying to just keep it all together but so far so good," he added.

In "Snow White and the Huntsman" he plays a less paternal role, as the huntsman who is sent to kill the fairy tale princess (Stewart) by the wicked queen (Theron).

The movie has more action than previous incarnations of the story—something that Stewart was happy to throw herself into.

"I've been wanting to do something really physical for a long time and anytime you can see genuine discomfort on screen, that's not being faked," she said.

And the actress thinks she was more suited to it than the "Thor" actor.

"I really killed myself on this movie and I think anytime you see Chris being freezing or like uncomfortable and looking like he's afraid he probably is because he's a total baby," she joked.

And as for the evil and murderous queen? Theron thinks that she's just "a bit tragic" and feels "sorry for her."

"She has no love. We should be nice to her," she smiled.

Also attending the premiere was actor Ray Winstone and director Rupert Sanders.

The movie is out in the U.K. on May 30 and in the U.S. on June 1.

AP

Actors Kristen Stewart, left, with Charlize Theron, right and Chris Hemsworth pose for the media at the World Premiere of the film Snow White and the Huntsman at a cinema in central London, Monday, May 14, 2012.

Jessica Simpson designing clothes for moms-to-be

AP

In this Nov. 29, 2011 file photo, singer Jessica Simpson poses at the 25th Annual Footwear News Achievement Awards at The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Brand-new mother Jessica Simpson is launching a line of clothing for moms-to-be.

With it all still fresh in her mind, the 31-year-old singer-actress, who gave birth to daughter Maxwell Drew Johnson on May 1, announced Monday a partnership between Camuto Group, the master licensee behind her label, and retailer Destination Maternity.

The clothes, with a hint of a 1970s vibe, will be in stores in the fall. She said she'll aim for clothes "flattering to your baby bump."

Simpson famously tweeted while pregnant that she dreamed she went to the hospital wearing an animal-print kaftan.

This collection builds on her already strong fashion portfolio, with 24 product categories, including clothes, jewelry, shoes and beauty products.

Simpson is a regular on NBC's "Fashion Star" reality competition show.

Michael Jackson costumes to be exhibited, sold

AP

An undated image released by Julien's Auctions, shows a Michael Jackson right handed glove covered in crystals, designed by Tompkins & Bush.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's glittery gloves, spangled jackets, stage-worn costumes and personal fashion effects are going on a world tour.

Celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien says clothing created by Jackson's longtime costume designers will be exhibited in South America, Europe and Asia before being sold to the highest bidder in December.

The exhibit opens May 18 at the Museo de la Moda in Santiago, Chile. It features items such as Jackson's Captain EO shirt, the black spandex outfit from his "Scream" video and the breakaway suit he wore during his BAD tour in the late 1980s.

The items will be sold by Julien's Auction on December 2, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Guide Dogs of America and Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas.

'30 Rock' getting odd exit from NBC

NEW YORK (AP)—Emmy-winning comedy "30 Rock" is being ushered out in an odd way by NBC.

Within the space of four days, NBC officials confirmed that "30 Rock" will call it quits for good after 13 episodes next season, denied it and then confirmed it again.

Asked to comment last Thursday on rumors that the Tina Fey-created sitcom was on its last legs, network entertainment spokeswoman Lauren Roseman said the series would end after its final hurrah next season.

Yet asked in an interview Sunday whether any of NBC's current Thursday comedies would be on their last seasons, network entertainment chief Robert Greenblatt said they weren't. All could return beyond next year if they do well in the ratings, he said.

"The audience gets a vote," Ted Harbert, chairman of NBC Broadcasting, added. The two executives repeated that contention in a conference call with reporters nearly three hours later.

But when he went onstage at Radio City Music Hall Monday morning to present the fall schedule to advertisers, Greenblatt said it was the last season for "30 Rock."

NBC hoped that it would continue to work with Fey for "years to come" on other projects, he said.

An NBC spokeswoman had no immediate explanation Monday for the changed stories.

Women take control of their health by learning all they can

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Between juggling the joys and challenges of home life and staying productive at work, it's easy for women to make quick decisions now that could affect their health later on, or to miss early signs of medical problems altogether.

To help women take control of their health, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Women's Health and the General Services Administration's Federal Citizen Information Center have created the free Healthy Women's Action Kit. It contains tips that can help women of every age. The topics include: buying contact lenses online, mammograms, hypertension, cholesterol, Pap tests, menopause and hormones, and more.

Abby, thank you for sharing this information kit with your readers, and for faithfully introducing all of us to ideas and information to help make our lives better.

MARSHA HENDERSON, FDA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

DEAR MARSHA: I'm glad to help get the word out to my readers during National Women's Health Week that the information is available for them at no cost.

Readers, among the topics Marsha didn't mention that are also included are a guide to help you quit smoking and facts about tattoos, osteoporosis, diabetes and health scams. The more we know, the better we can protect ourselves and the people we love.

The Healthy Women's Action Kits are easy to order. All you have to do is send your name and address to Healthy Women's Action Kit, Pueblo, CO 81009; go online to www.promotions.usa.gov/dearabby.html; or call (888)8-PUEBLO (that's (888) 878-3256) weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time. You can also read the publications online in PDF format, download them to your computer and print them. Don't wait, because supplies are limited.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The man I'm in love with, "Butch," is an alcoholic. He refuses to get help and has become verbally abusive. He got a DUI and there's a warrant out for him because he didn't follow through on his court orders. I threw him out after he lost his job.

Butch is homeless now and has taken up with a homeless woman. When he's sober he's a totally different person, and that's the man I'm in love with. I'm devastated by his actions and I want him back.

I am so co-dependent I cry daily about this. I do go to meetings and I'm trying to move on, but I have no friends and don't know where to start to get a life. Butch's behavior is out of control, and it's only a matter of time before he winds up in jail. Could you please tell me what to do?

LOST IN LOVE IN MONTANA

DEAR LOST IN LOVE: I'm sorry you're hurting, but pleased to know you are going to meetings. At some point they will help you accept that as much as you love the person Butch was, for the sake of your health and sanity you must "let go and let God." Your next step should be to give yourself less time to brood. Fill your non-working hours by volunteering—at a hospital, a library, a senior citizen's center. That's where you'll meet worthwhile, involved people and start building friendships with mentally healthy people. I promise you the more you put into it, the more you'll receive.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is there any medical reason why a man or woman needs to wear underwear?

MICHAEL IN LADSON, S.C.

DEAR MICHAEL: There is no "medical" reason, but there is a sanitary reason, unless you are prepared to launder your trousers every time you wear them to prevent the accumulation of bodily secretions such as perspiration.

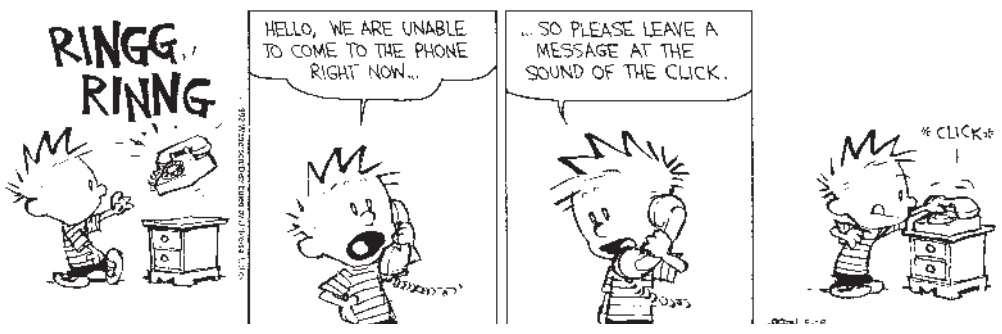
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

AM I GOING TO CONFRONT THOSE TEENS AND THEIR LOUD MUSIC?
BOOM BOOM
SOMEBODY HAS TO. THEY DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISTURB THE PEACE.
IF I TALK TO THEM ON THEIR LEVEL, THEY MIGHT LISTEN.
I SHOULD GRAB MY FEZ AND MONOCLE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

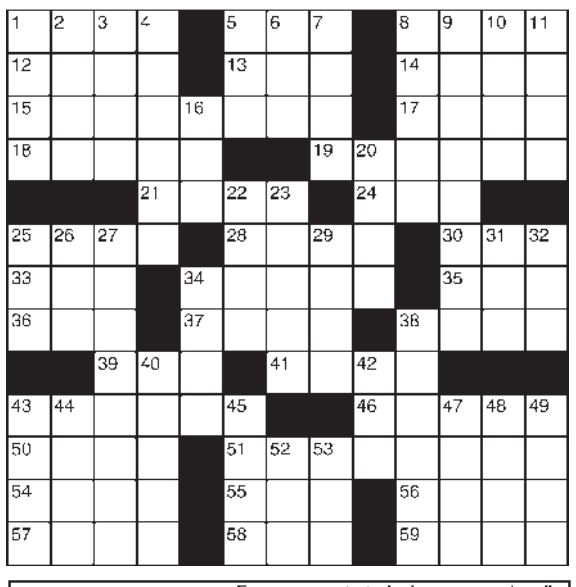
ACROSS
1 Gratuities
5 Scott Pelley's network
8 Nile serpents
12 Nut companion
13 Pendulum's place?
14 Halt
15 Use a telescope, maybe
17 Story
18 Check recipient
19 Bone innards
21 Eastern potentate
24 Scepter
25 Nuisance
28 Expansive
30 Grecian vessel
33 Stolen
34 Notes from the boss
35 Seek damages
36 "CSI" evidence
37 Catch sight of
38 Mulligan, e.g.
39 Fish eggs
41 Protected
43 Will subject
46 Poetic feet
50 Gossip
51 Top film of 1977
54 Merriment
55 Help
56 Leading man?
57 BPOE members
58 Work with
59 Longings

DOWN
1 Recipe meas.
2 Tittle
3 Stage presentation
4 Avenue
5 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
6 Occupation, for short
7 From — to stern
8 The Jetsons' dog
9 Hoagy Carmichael classic
10 Game on horseback
11 Jet forth
16 Jewel
20 — and crafts
22 Folksinger Burl
23 Freeway exits
25 Third degree?
26 A billion years
27 Space program?
29 Nutritious bean
31 Wish otherwise
32 Fresh
34 Encounter
38 Shipping lane
40 Author Joyce Carol —
42 Evergreen type
43 Advantage
44 Window ledge
45 Birthright barterer
47 Put together
48 Cereal choice
49 Doctrines
52 "— the season ..."
53 Summery quaff

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	E	L	L	■	A	G	O	■	B	E	G	S
A	R	E	A	■	N	U	N	■	A	G	U	E
R	E	C	I	M	E	N	T	■	R	A	R	E
■	■	■	R	O	W	■	H	A	R	D	U	P
G	O	N	D	O	■	P	E	L	E	■	■	■
H	U	E	S	■	R	E	D	O	L	E	N	T
A	S	S	■	A	H	O	O	T	■	R	O	E
H	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	■	P	O	I	S
■	■	■	B	E	T	S	■	A	S	S	E	T
A	L	B	I	N	O	■	S	L	Y	■	■	■
I	O	A	D	■	R	F	T	I	G	F	N	T
P	O	K	E	■	I	R	E	■	H	O	B	O
S	T	E	M	■	C	A	T	■	O	N	C	E

Yesterday's answer 5-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Fox, 26; Tori Spelling, 39; Janet Jackson, 46; Pierce Brosnan, 59.

Happy Birthday: Size up your financial situation and prioritize what must be done. Budget wisely for the things you really want, and eliminate anything unnecessary on your list. A concise and efficient step forward will make a huge difference to the outcome, with many surprises that are directly linked to a practical approach. Your numbers are 6, 13, 23, 25, 32, 40, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get ready for adventure, ups and downs and lots to think about. A friend may have a greater interest in you than you realize. Don't take on a burden that will stifle your chance to follow your dream. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Meeting someone interesting through work or while networking can lead to a long-time connection. The ideas you present will be taken seriously and will be given great consideration by someone with clout. Don't be afraid to use a little force. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Avoid procrastinating or getting annoyed with someone pressuring you to choose. Take advantage of the possibilities instead. Love is in the picture. Do something special for those you care about most. Embrace whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't play the role of a martyr. Put your efforts into your home, family and future. Reinvent how you present what you have to offer. Don't let depression sink in. Concentrate instead on what you can get done. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Consider your relationships and what improvements can be made. Interacting and participating will lead to interesting contacts who can affect your future. Traveling will give you an interesting new perspective on the possibilities that exist. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Communication is your ticket to advancement. Expand on an idea you feel has potential to become profitable. Attending a reunion or encountering someone from your past will remind you of an old dream. It's time to look back in order to move forward. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Shopping or relaxing at a spa will do a lot for your morale and give you time to consider your options. Children or a dependent will inspire you to do something you may have forgone without prompting. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A partnership that never had a chance to develop will be given a fresh start. Negotiate strategically, making clear what you have to offer and what you want in return. Make your residence more conducive to working creatively from home. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Try something new, or get involved in an activity that promises to challenge you physically. The opportunity to show off will make you feel good and help position you for a job that interests you. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep your emotions in check. Observe what others are doing. Focus on how you can make your life better. A little creative accounting will help protect your assets and secure your financial position for years to come. Stick close to home. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Wait and see what everyone else does. You don't want to end up in a position that costs you because you were too eager to offer or promise your assistance. Love is looking good, and a positive decision will stabilize your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An opportunity to change the way you earn your living is apparent. Update your resume or present other ways that your services and skills can be put to use. Greater job and financial security is apparent. Don't be afraid to take a chance. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a go-getter. You take action and you graciously accept rewards.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6	7				
			3		9	7		
				1	2			
8	1	4			6	5		
9			7			8	1	
	6			9	8	3		4
	7							5
		3						1
			8	4	3	2	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	9	4	5	6	2	7	1
4	7	1	9	3	2	8	5	6
6	2	5	1	7	8	3	9	4
7	9	4	6	8	3	1	2	5
8	1	3	2	9	5	6	4	7
2	5	6	7	4	1	9	8	3
1	6	7	8	2	4	5	3	9
5	4	2	3	1	9	7	6	8
9	3	8	5	6	7	4	1	2

Difficulty level ★★ 5/3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BREAKFAST BUFFETS **Solution: 10 letters**

G	T	S	S	E	D	A	L	A	M	R	A	M	L	Y
R	N	E	P	N	G	C	R	B	M	E	A	L	P	N
T	E	I	L	I	O	G	R	O	U	F	U	S	I	D
E	S	M	K	E	C	I	S	A	I	F	I	F	I	A
A	E	A	M	O	M	E	N	U	G	R	F	Ⓢ	S	E
S	N	K	O	I	O	O	P	O	C	U	H	Ⓔ	H	R
S	U	L	A	T	S	C	S	O	M	R	S	Ⓐ	T	B
N	R	I	A	E	R	E	S	U	R	T	E	Ⓣ	A	C
P	P	M	R	E	K	A	S	P	E	R	L	A	E	O
S	O	V	T	A	U	H	U	P	O	S	I	A	M	F
T	E	T	C	S	R	H	M	S	T	A	E	D	S	F
J	U	N	A	O	C	U	D	A	I	I	C	E	G	E
B	A	G	O	T	R	O	T	S	H	Z	U	H	H	E
P	E	M	E	C	O	L	D	S	L	A	E	R	E	C
S	S	K	S	F	S	N	U	B	A	C	O	N	F	D

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Bacon, Bread, Buffet, Buns, Butter, Cereals, Cheese, Coffee, Cold, Cooking, Cream, Crispy, Crumpets, Dish, Eggs, Fish, Food, Fruit, Full, Ham, Jams, Ketchup, Marmalade, Meal, Meat, Menu, Milk, Muffin, Mushrooms, Omelet, Onions, Pancakes, Poached, Porridge, Potato, Prunes, Salt, Sausages, Scones, Seat, Serve, Simmer, Size, Spice, Sugar, Teas, Toast, Tomatoes

Yesterday's Answer: Luxury

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Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

GARAGE SALE

Leaving Island, many household items to sell!

WHEN: Saturday, May 19, 2012
TIME: 7:00am
LOCATION: Red and white house on the hill behind the Big Blue water tank, in Papago at the intersection of Isa Drive and Mulberry Lane. House is located between Santos Acres and San Vicente Post Office. Signs will be posted for guide.

Call 483-5324 for directions.

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SAIPAN, MP 96950
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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**IN SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

MD. ABDUL KADER Petitioner	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0212
vs.	)	
LAMELLA BLESAM Respondent	)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505775, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger of Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administratrix Margarita Mendiola Reyes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	]	**Civil Action No. 11-0279**
EDWARD REYES MENDIOLA, Decedent.	]	

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

Date: May 24, 2012
Time: 1:30 pm
Judge: Honorable Robert C. Naraja

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE EDWARD REYES MENDIOLA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Margarita Mendiola Reyes**, Administratrix of the Estate of Edward Reyes Mendiola, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a **Petition for Decree of Final Distribution**. The attorney for Administratrix is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the 24th day of May, 2012 at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2012.

Clerk of Court
/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD W. BURCHER, Jr., Petitioner, vs. **DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER,** Respondent.	]	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0443**

ORDER FOR RESPONDENT DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

TO: DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER

Pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301,YOU are hereby ORDERED to make a personal appearance before the Court or else to file any written response you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within twenty (20) days after publication of this Order in one of the two major daily newspapers in the Commonwealth. You are further directed to deliver or mail a copy of any responsive pleading that you file to Petitioner's attorney, Thomas E. Clifford, whose address is:

2nd Floor, Alexander Building,
San Jose
P.O. Box 506514
Saipan, MP 96950

as soon as practicable after filing. Any responsive pleading should be filed with Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. If you fail either to make a personal appearance or to file a written response in accordance with this Order, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

So ORDERED this 23rd day of January, 2012.

/s/ The Honorable PERRY B. INOS
Associate Judge

Century Tours is looking for qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions.

Sales Supervisor (1)

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing with at least 2 years related experience in the tour and travel industry. Candidate must have strong oral and written communication skills in English and Chinese languages. Must be proficient in the use of MS Word, Excel and Power point. Must be willing to work on holidays, nights and weekends.

Accounting Clerk (1)

Qualifications: Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 2 years work experience in cash management within a busy working environment. Must be proficient in the use of MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure, meet tight deadlines and can work flexible hours.

Operations Clerk (2)

Qualifications: High school graduate or GED with at least 1 year of work experience in the hotel and tour industry. Must be able to be prepared to handle multiple assignments at the same time. Must have strong oral and written communication skills in the English and Chinese language. Must be proficient in typing, math, grammar and computers. Successful candidate must be able to handle room bookings and or activity setups as it relates to tourist needs.

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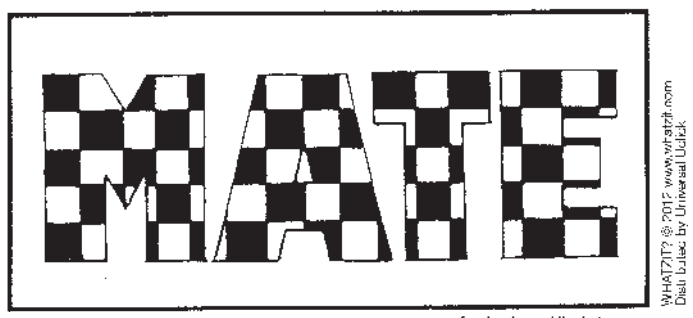


Find today's solution in classified section

76ers even series with 82-81 win over Celts

BOSTON (AP)—Evan Turner made the go-ahead layup with 40.4 seconds left and Philadelphia held off Boston the rest of the way with six straight free throws as the 76ers evened the second-round Eastern Conference series with an 82-81 victory Monday night.

Turner finished with 10 points, including his layup that put the Sixers up 76-75. He added two free throws with 12 seconds to go.

Jrue Holiday scored 18 points and Andre Iguodala added 13 points, seven assists and six rebounds for the Sixers, who blew a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter as the Celtics won Game 1.

Kevin Garnett had 15 points and 12 rebounds and Ray Allen scored 17 points for the Celtics. Game 3 is Wednesday in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia won its first playoff game in Boston since 1982 despite committing a playoff-high 19 turnovers and getting outrebounded 47-36.

Spencer Hawes finished with eight points and 10 rebounds and Lavoy Allen scored 10 points for the Sixers.

Brandon Bass had 12 points for the Celtics, who couldn't quite repeat their comeback in the series opener. The Sixers led by 10 points early in the fourth quarter of Game 1 before the Celtics rallied for a 92-91 victory.

AP

Philadelphia 76ers shooting guard Evan Turner (12) gets past Boston Celtics small forward Paul Pierce (34) to score the go-ahead basket in the final minute of the second half of Game 2 in their NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series in Boston, Monday, May 14, 2012.

It was starting to look familiar for Philadelphia on Monday, but the Sixers were able to hold off the Celtics down the stretch in a tight finish.

Philadelphia led 57-49 entering the fourth, but Boston tied it twice before going up 72-71 on Avery Bradley's 3-pointer, setting off a series of shots from beyond the arc.

Holiday answered with a 3 for the Sixers, then Ray Allen got the lead right back for the Celtics on a 3-pointer with 1:40 left. The Celtics had a chance to extend the lead after forcing the Sixers into a 24-second shot clock violation, but Rondo missed a shot and Iguodala got the rebound, leading to Turner's layup to put the Sixers up 76-75 with 40.4 seconds to go.

Rondo and Allen both missed shots that would have put Boston ahead, then Rondo fouled Turner with 14.4 seconds left as the shot clock was winding down.

The Celtics fouled Turner again with 12 seconds and he hit both free throws to extend the lead to 78-76.

Fans grew restless as the second half opened with sloppy, choppy play by both teams. Boston led 38-36 at halftime and nearly 7 minutes into the third quarter the score was just 43-41 with the Celtics still ahead.

When the shots finally started falling, they were all for Philadelphia. The Sixers scored 14 straight points, turning a 47-43 deficit into a 57-47 lead in the final minute of the period. Boston went without a point for 4:40, finally scoring when Pierce made two free throws with 2.4 seconds left in the period.

The Celtics committed seven turnovers during the quarter and made just 4 of 17 shots.

Thunder 119, Lakers 90

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 27 points and nine assists, and Kevin Durant added 25 points as Oklahoma City blasted weary Los Angeles in the opening game of the Western Conference semifinals.

The Thunder took a 15-point halftime lead, then opened the third quarter with a 15-2 blitz.

Oklahoma City led by as many as 35 points, getting a measure of vengeance for the elbow Metta World Peace delivered to the head of the Thunder's James Harden three weeks earlier.

Thunder starting center Kendrick Perkins limped off after aggravating a hip injury from the first round.

Kobe Bryant and Andrew Bynum scored 20 points each for the Lakers and Bynum had 14 rebounds. The Thunder committed a franchise-record four turnovers.

Game 2 is Wednesday in Oklahoma City.

Bosh out indefinitely, so Heat and Pacers adjust

MIAMI (AP)—Chris Bosh and the Miami Heat were relieved by the diagnosis. It's the prognosis—or lack of one—that's a source of worry now.

And suddenly, the Indiana Pacers may be even more of a threat.

Bosh strained a lower abdominal muscle in Game 1 of the teams' Eastern Conference semifinal series, that original diagnosis confirmed Monday after an MRI exam. The team said Bosh is out "indefinitely," though coach Erik Spoelstra and others say the injury could have been worse.

Either way, Bosh is out for Game 2 on Tuesday, and sounds like he probably won't play again in this series.

"This season has to be extended for me to play again," Bosh said. "So that's what's on my mind."

Bosh was hurt late in the first half as he drove for a dunk and got fouled by Indiana's Roy Hibbert. The foul almost certainly played no role in the injury, as Bosh fell forward to his hands and knees after landing and stayed down for a few seconds. He got up and made his free throw, but dropped to the court again on the ensuing possession, leaving the game for evaluation.

Without Bosh, Miami rallied behind LeBron James and Dwyane Wade, who outscored the Pacers 42-38 in the second half themselves and fueled a series-opening 95-86 win.

"Seeing him yesterday, seeing the pain he was in, you feared the worst," Wade said as practice wrapped up Monday. "But seeing him downstairs in the training room with a smile on his face—it wasn't a big smile, it was a little one—but just to see him in there, it was good.

"You never know with these kind of things how long it takes."

It'll be an adjustment for Miami, which will likely start either Ronny Turiaf or Joel Anthony at center and keep Udonis Haslem in the opening lineup at power forward—and that trio earned a tip of the cap from Indiana coach Frank Vogel on Monday when he called them "three of the best dirty-work guys in the business." James will see some time at power forward as well, which isn't uncommon for Miami anyway.

The Pacers will also be doing some adjusting as well, after spending the buildup to this series preparing for James, Wade and Bosh.

"It changes their team, but we've got to understand it doesn't allow you to play 5-on-4," Vogel said. "They've got great players they can fill in for him. They've got different lineups that are sometimes more effective than the lineup with Bosh. Obviously, not having to worry about Bosh helps because he's such a terrific player."

Indiana got a look at what Miami will do without Bosh in the second half, when James and Wade dominated the ball. James took 17 shots in the second half, Wade took 13. No other Heat player took more than two shots after halftime.

"If Chris can't play it'll be really heavy, heavy pick-and-roll sets for LeBron and D-Wade," Indiana forward Danny Granger said. "That's what it was when he went out of the game. They kind of lost their low-post presence so now those guys will dominate the ball even more, which makes my job and Paul George's job a little difficult, and our bigs, because they'll set multiple pick-and-rolls every possession."

Granger's focus Monday wasn't entirely on defense, and the extra challenge that'll come with Wade and James having the ball in their hands more now. Indiana's top scorer had no points in the first half of Game 1, his lowest since April 10, 2007—a span of 366 games including playoffs, according to STATS LLC.

Chances are, Granger won't be taking just 10 shots again on Tuesday.

"I expect guys to always be aggressive against me," James said. "We'll see. I'm always ready for a guy to be aggressive, no matter who I'm going up against. So I won't be surprised by it, if he is."

Meanwhile, talk of fouls—an issue in this series before it even started, after Vogel said the Heat were the league's biggest bunch of floppers—continued Monday. And Vogel wasn't happy about the 31 fouls charged to his team in Game 1 either, but he pointed the blame squarely at those who picked up those calls and not those who made them.

"We understand loud and clear that the officiating didn't beat us in Game 1," Vogel said. "The Miami Heat beat us in Game 1. We understand that. Part of winning on the road in the playoffs is overcoming that."

For the Heat, part of winning anywhere for at least the immediate future will be overcoming not having Bosh, someone who James—the reigning NBA MVP—routinely refers to as Miami's most important player.

"It's not the worst thing that could have happened," Bosh said. "So that was good news. We started treatments and everything, it's a process and we'll see how my body responds. ... There's been so many curveballs throughout my career and really throughout this season, nothing would surprise me. I just want to be out there and playing with my teammates."

As has been the case all season when the Heat dealt with injuries, like ones that kept Wade sidelined and another that kept Bosh out for the final six games of the regular season, coach Erik Spoelstra insisted that his team has enough depth to compete.

"We feel this team was built with a great deal of versatility," Spoelstra said. "We feel that that is one of our best strengths."

Griffin says he'll play in Game 1 despite knee

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Blake Griffin woke up Monday with his sprained left knee not feeling worse, but not really much better. Rest is the only remedy, a luxury the Los Angeles Clippers don't have, and doctors guess he might miss two weeks if this were the regular season.

Griffin? He says he will play in Game 1 on Tuesday night against the San Antonio Spurs.

Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro is making no such guarantees.

"I don't know yet," Del Negro said Monday. "I'll make that decision tomorrow after shootaround, after I talk to the trainer."

Griffin doesn't think that conversation will be necessary.

Griffin said there is "no doubt" about his availability for the start of the Western Conference semifinals, which start two days after the hobbled All-Star played fewer than two minutes in the fourth quarter of a Game 7 win at Memphis. His injury is the most worrisome for the banged-up Clippers: All-Star Chris Paul said Monday that his bothersome right hip is OK, and forward Caron Butler is expected to play despite his broken left hand.

Following a light shootaround and film session Monday, Griffin put his health between 75 percent and 80 percent.

"Hopefully more than that, but realistically, probably about that," he said. "But my knee hasn't gotten worse. That's the encouraging thing. It just needs time, and we haven't had much of it."

They've barely had any at all.

The Clippers flew straight to Texas from Memphis on Sunday night, leaving them little time to savor one of the biggest wins in the woeful 41-year history of the franchise. Never had the Clippers won a Game 7 before Sunday, and this marks only the third time they've advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Then there are the Spurs.

Few things about the No. 1 seed in the West could be more different than the Clippers, and not just in terms of franchise history. While the worn-out Clippers are facing their sixth game in 11 days, the Spurs haven't played for eight days since sweeping Utah in the first round.

That the Spurs are not the most hobbled team in a playoff series is a refreshing change of pace for them. Winners of 14 in a row—one of the NBA's six-longest winning streaks sustained in the playoffs since 1986—the Spurs are not just well rested but also in unusually good health for this time of year.

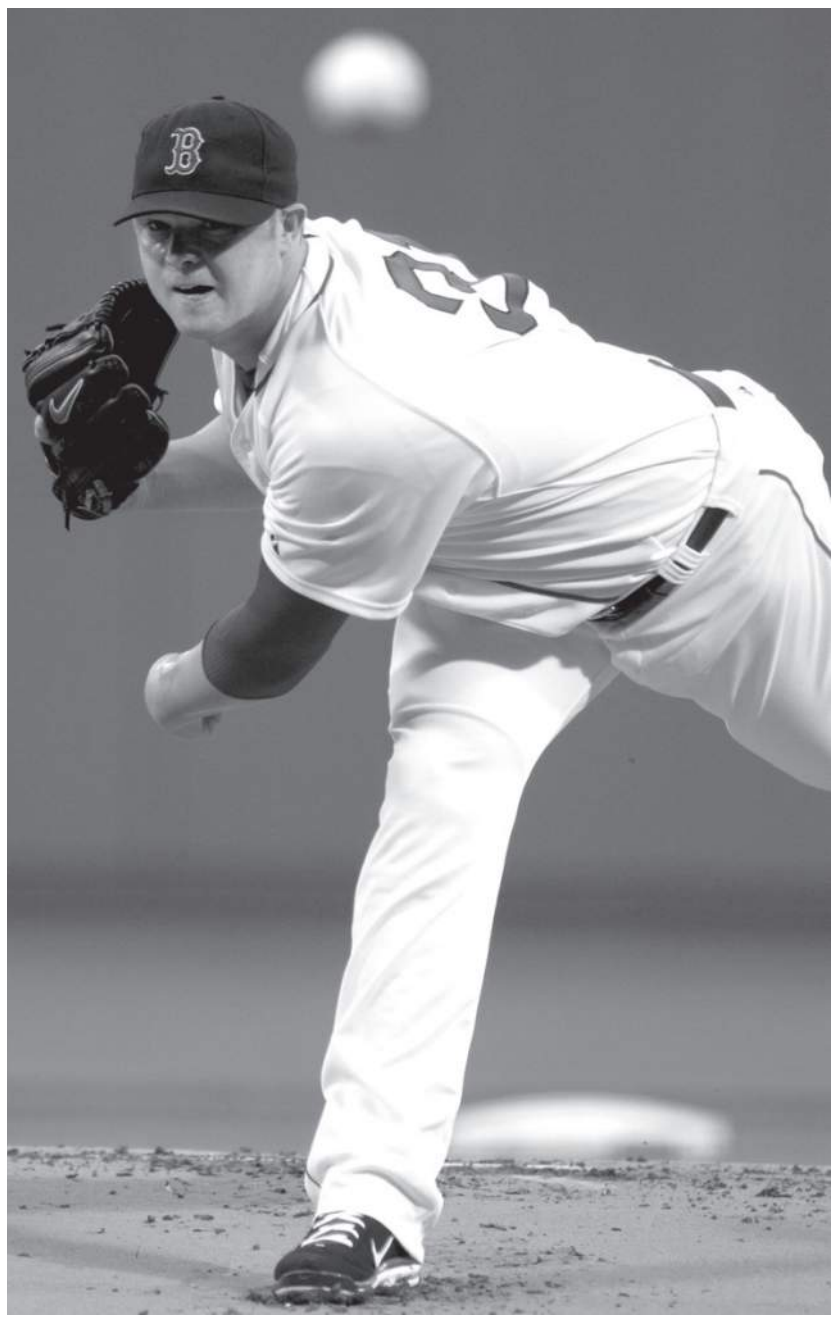
Lester, Nava carry Red Sox past Mariners

BOSTON (AP)—Jon Lester pitched his second complete game of the season and Daniel Nava and Kelly Shoppach each homered to lead the Boston Red Sox to a 6-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Monday.

David Ortiz and Adrian Gonzalez added consecutive RBI doubles for the Red Sox, who won their fourth straight—all at home. Boston is on its longest home winning streak since capturing nine straight last July.

Lester (2-3) didn't allow a runner past second base until there was one out in the ninth. Kyle Seager's grounder scored the Mariners' run.

Lester allowed eight hits and didn't walk a batter in his eighth career complete game. He struck out six. He threw 119 pitches.



AP

Boston Red Sox's Jon Lester delivers a pitch against the Seattle Mariners in the first inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park, in Boston, Monday, May 14, 2012.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Cesar Ramos got his first career win after replacing the injured Jeff Niemann, and Ben Zobrist homered in Tampa Bay's win over Toronto.

Luke Scott and Sean Rodriguez each had two RBIs for the Rays, who have won two straight after losing six of their previous seven.

The Rays had to go to their bullpen early, with Niemann knocked out after he was struck on the right foot by Adam Lind's grounder in the first.

Ramos (1-0) allowed one run and two hits in three innings, walked three and struck out three, to win for the first time in 80 career appearances.

Indians 5, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Choo Shin-soo hit the go-ahead RBI single in the ninth inning to back Jeanmar Gomez's seven superb innings and lift Cleveland over Minnesota.

Choo's base hit off Twins closer Matt Capps (0-2) scored pinch-runner Lou Marson from second base, bailing out an Indians bullpen that squandered a 4-1 lead in the eighth inning.

Gomez allowed one unearned run on three hits with three strikeouts and two walks.

Casey Kotchman had two hits, including a two-run homer, and Joe Smith (3-1) picked up the win for the Indians.

Yankees 8, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Mark Teixeira hit a tie-breaking two-run homer in the seventh inning and Curtis Granderson also connected as New York got three hits from Alex Rodriguez in a victory over Baltimore.

Teixeira had five hits in his previous 33 at-bats and was hitting .220 when he drove a 1-2 pitch from former Yankee Luis Ayala (1-1) into the right-field seats.

Yankees starter Ivan Nova allowed five runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings before leaving with a bruised and sprained right foot.

David Phelps (1-1) entered in the sixth and got three outs. Rafael Soriano, the sixth New York pitcher, worked the ninth for his second save.

Royals 3, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Bruce Chen pitched into the seventh inning for his second straight win as Kansas City took advantage of Adrian Beltre's throwing error for a win at Texas.

Chen (2-4) has won his last two starts since a four-game losing streak. The left-hander struck out seven and walked two over 6 2-3 innings, giving up only a massive homer to Nelson Cruz.

Scott Feldman (0-1) allowed two unearned runs over 4 2-3 innings in his second spot start this season.

Feldman gave up three hits, the last a two-run single by No. 9 hitter Alicides Escobar right after third baseman Beltre's two-out throwing error.

White Sox 7, Tigers 5

In Chicago, Dayan Viciedo homered and hit a go-ahead two-run single to finish with four RBIs and help Chicago rally for a victory over Detroit.

Adam Dunn hit his 12th home run of the season in the first inning for Chicago, surpassing his total from all of last year.

John Danks got off to a rough start for the White Sox, giving up three runs in the first. Danks surrendered five runs on nine hits in three innings of work—his shortest outing of the season.

Zach Stewart (1-1) earned the win, allowing only one hit over three scoreless innings.

Athletics 5, Angels 0

In Anaheim, California, Tyson Ross allowed five hits in six strong innings to end a string of three losses, and Josh Reddick homered and Seth Smith hit a two-run double in Oakland's victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Dan Haren (1-4) yielded six hits and four runs during another poor start for the Angels, who were shut out for the eighth time in 31 games.

Albert Pujols went 1 for 4 with an eighth-inning single, following up his 5-for-26 road trip by drawing scattered boos as his batting average improved to .197.

Ross (2-3) yielded 25 hits and 19 runs over just 13 innings in his past three starts, but he carved up the struggling Angels before three relievers contributed one scoreless inning apiece.

Nationals 8 , Padres 5

In Washington, Bryce Harper hit his first big league home run, and Chad Tracy and Xavier Nady each connected in the eighth inning to lead the Washington Nationals to a victory over the San Diego Padres.

Harper became the youngest major leaguer to homer since 1998, going deep on a solo shot to straightaway center field in the third inning off right-hander Tim Stauffer. The home run came in the outfielder's 15th game and 54th at-bat with the Nationals.

Washington also lost another player to injury in a season that has been filled with them. Catcher Sandy Leon—making his major league debut—left the game in the fourth inning after spraining his right ankle in a collision at home plate.

Phillies 5, Astros 1

In Philadelphia, Joe Blanton pitched seven-plus strong innings and Placido Polanco homered for his 2,000th career hit to lead Philadelphia over Houston.

Blanton (4-3) allowed six hits and one run, struck out seven and walked one while pitching in a steady light rain throughout. The right-hander continued his solid recent stretch, improving to 3-0 with a 2.10 ERA in his last four starts.

Freddy Galvis had three hits and drove in a pair of runs and Carlos Ruiz went 2 for 4 with an RBI for the Phillies.

Marwin Gonzalez, pinch hitting to lead off the eighth, hit his first major league homer for the Astros' lone run. Lucas Harrell (2-3) took the loss.

Reds 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Brandon Phillips drove in the go-ahead run with a double off the centerfield wall as Cincinnati scored two runs off Jonny Venters in the eighth inning to beat Atlanta.

The game was tied 1-1 when Drew Stubbs led off the eighth with an infield hit between the pitcher's mound and third base. Stubbs moved to second base on a wild pitch by Venters (2-2). With one out, Phillips drove in Stubbs with the double. Chris Heisey added another double, his third hit of the game, to drive in Phillips.

Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman left the game after the seventh inning with blurred vision in his right eye. His status was to be updated after the game.

Mets 3, Brewers 1

In New York, Miguel Batista pitched seven shutout innings of four-hit ball and Daniel Murphy supplied the offense, sending the surprising New York Mets past Milwaukee.

Given a vote of confidence by manager Terry Collins before the game, struggling closer Frank Francisco bounced back from a pair of rough outings to earn his ninth save. Murphy extended his recent tear at the plate by hitting an RBI single and scoring on a suicide squeeze—a play the Brewers failed to execute earlier.

Pirates 3, Marlins 2

In Miami, Brad Lincoln pitched six innings to earn a victory in his first start of the season as Pittsburgh ended a streak of eight consecutive losses against Florida.

Lincoln (3-0), who had come out of the bullpen in his seven previous appearances this season, departed for a pinch-hitter with a 3-2 lead and an ERA of 1.33. He allowed four hits and walked one.

The Pirates, who rank last in the majors in runs, won with only six hits. Rod Barajas, who came into the game batting .162, hit his second homer, and Pedro Alvarez put Pittsburgh ahead to stay with an RBI double in the sixth.

The Pirates hadn't beaten the Marlins since 2010 and went 0-6 against them last year. Miami's Anibal Sanchez (2-1) took the loss.

Cubs 6, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Alfonso Soriano singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Chicago sent St. Louis to its fourth straight loss at home.

Bryan LaHair had three hits for the Cubs, including a two-run homer to break a 1-for-14 slump. Chicago's late rally wasn't enough to make a winner of starter Ryan Dempster, whose winless streak reached 15 starts dating to last August.

Shawn Camp (2-1) allowed one hit in two innings of work and Rafael Dolis worked the ninth for his fourth save. Mitchell Boggs (0-1) took the loss.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw outpitched Ian Kennedy to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers over Arizona without injured star Matt Kemp.

The Dodgers center fielder was placed on the 15-day disabled list following the game because of a strained left hamstring. Kemp had played 399 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the majors. Andre Ethier homered in Kemp's absence as the Dodgers won their fifth straight.

Kemp missed his first game since Aug. 18, 2009. Third baseman Juan Uribe, who was in manager Don Mattingly's original lineup, also was placed on the 15-day disabled list because of an injury to his left wrist.

Giants 3, Rockies 1

In San Francisco, Buster Posey hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning as San Francisco beat Colorado to match its best winning streak of the season at three games.

Gregor Blanco hit a tying home run leading off the sixth for San Francisco and also added a pair of singles, including one to start the rally in the eighth against loser Rex Brothers (1-2). Joaquin Arias then beat out an infield single when Rockies catcher Wilin Rosario tried to let the bunt up the first base line roll foul and it stayed fair. He rushed his throw to first and the ball got past Todd Helton for an error that moved Blanco to third.

Sergio Romo (2-0) struck out Michael Cuddyer with runners on second and third to end the eighth for the win. Santiago Casilla finished for his eighth save.

MLB *fires arbitrator from* Braun *case*

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball management has fired Shyam Das, the arbitrator who overturned Ryan Braun's drug suspension in February.

MLB informed Das and the players' association of its decision last week. Das had been baseball's permanent arbitrator since 1999, part of what technically is a three-man panel that also includes a representative of management and labor.

"Shyam is the longest-tenured panel chair in our bargaining relationship," union head Michael Weiner said. "For 13 years, from the beginning to the end of his tenure, he served the parties with professionalism and distinction."

Baseball's collective bargaining agreement says the arbitrator can be removed by the players' association or management at any time with written notice.

"I had the distinct privilege to serve as chair of the MLB-MLBPA arbitration panel for almost 13 years," Das wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "I have the greatest respect for the representatives of both parties I worked with during that period, and I wish the parties well in their ongoing relationship."

Silver Streak to run on June 16

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 19th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run is set for June 16 and this year a team competition has been added in conjunction with the Hand In Hand For Haiti Marathon.

Longtime event organizer Wolf Mojica said the event, which is nicknamed Silver Streak, is supporting Hand In Hand For Haiti Marathon and teams participating in this year's race will be tasked with getting friends and family members to pledge money toward the Hand In Hand for Haiti Charity.

More details about the charity can be read on the website www.handinhandforhaiti.com.

Teams of six persons will run the 4.3 miles to equal a marathon. Team members will pay the $10 registration fee as well as $300.

Registration for the Silver Streak begins at 5am and the run begins at 6am. Registration fee for those not running the team event is also $10. The fee includes an event T-shirt for the first 150 finishers as well as drinks and ditty bags.

The run starts at the DFS Galleria main entrance on Beach Road. The turnaround will be across from Char's in Chalan Laulau.

Mojica said medals will be awarded to the top finishers of 13 age groups.

The Silver Streak is named after and held in honor of Thomas Picarro, the former president of the Saipan division of Duty Free Shoppers.

Picarro was remembered as an avid runner with a head of white/silver hair and this race commemorates his running up and down Beach Road back when he lived on Saipan. Well known as an upstanding member of the community, Mojica said Picarro was always concerned with the welfare of the people.

Last year, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel completed the 4.2-mile race in 27 minutes and one second for the fastest time among 94 runners. Mamiko Oshima-Berger, meanwhile, won the women's division with her time of 27:21, which was also the second best time overall.

If you are interested in participating in either Silver Streak or the team "marathon" event, contact Rose Wanket at 236-2510 or Wolf Mojica at 236-2540.

ANGELS

From Page 28

get in the rotation, one of them was declared an obstruction of the base path by the umpires, which allowed the runner passage to home plate.

Kaipat was later moved over to third base and was brought home by a sacrifice fly by Pete Tomakane that tied the game at 7-all.

This may have marked a turning point in the match as the D9-ers were blanked for the remainder of the contest.

The Angels on the other hand went ahead, 8-7, in the sixth off an RBI single by Cruz and put up three more in the seventh off just one hit as even the D-9ers bullpen appeared deflated from the uprising in the late innings.

The Angels opted for closer Franco Flores to bring it home from the start of the seventh inning. He filled his role very well and gave up just one hit with five strikeouts.

Notably, D-9ers pitcher Ben Cabrera came to the hump on the top of the second inning and pitched a good game as only a few of the runs allowed were actually earned with the bats during his five frames. He also batted 3-for-3 with a run and two bases on balls.

Ol'Aces 14, Fielders 8

The Fielders reclaimed a 4-2 edge in the bottom of the third inning off three hits.

Ton Tenorio led off with a triple and was driven home by Jimmy Brel and Shane Mendiola delivered Brel with two-out double.

The Ol'Aces' top of the order briefly tied the match for a second time in the fifth inning from leadoff man Jess Iguel and a sacrifice fly by J.R. Suel that scored Nokki Saralu.

The Fielders managed another couple of runs in the bottom frame from some welcomed errors, but the Ol'Aces finally awoke in the fourth time through its lineup. A costly error in left field helped bring in Juan Iguel and Saralu, while Suel and Asap Wabol were escorted home by Tyrone Omar.

Ol'Aces starter Benwachi Taisacan handed the ball over to his relief duo of Saralu and Juan Maratita after five innings and the unit did a good job keeping the Fielders at bay late in the game.

They each pitched two innings and gave up just one run, while their teammates added four runs to their lead in the eighth inning from a double by Juan Iguel, a two-run home run by Saralu, and some wild pitches. The Ol'Aces tacked on one for the road before closing the last three outs.

RAPHAEL

From Page 28

Zapanta started with a bang after knocking down 235 pins in his first game. Zapanta followed that up with a 210 in the second before slowing down with a 167 in his third game.

He came back with the fury in his fourth and final roll with a tournament-high 252 to finish with a 216 pinfall average.

Day 1 pacesetter Edward Baluyan settled for second place after finishing with 832 pinfalls built around games of 237, 221, 168, and 232, while Zapanta's eldest brother Ruselle completed the Top 3 with his 816 total (223, 169, 221, 203).

For winning the May crown, Raphael Zapanta took home $90, while Baluyan and Ruselle Zapanta earned $40 and $30, respectively.

Like Raphael Zapanta, the May roll-off was also Cal's first bowling tiara of the year. Unlike the teenager though, the veteran bowler won the Queen of the Lanes on Day 1 of the competition with a four-game series of 681 last Saturday.

Cal rolled consistent games of 167, 175, 166, and 173 to finish with a 170.25 pinfall average, which was good enough to stave off Day 2 challengers.

Tess Fabie tried but failed to surpass Cal's total when she played on Sunday and came away with a four-game series of 672 (153, 157, 183, 179) for a 168 norm.

Cora Muna dropped from second to third after Fabie's roll-off Sunday. Muna fired a 658 last Saturday after stringing together scores of 134, 167, 180, and 177.

Cal, Fabie, and Muna pocketed $70, $35, and 25, respectively for finishing in the Top 3 of the women's division.

Results of the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes held last Saturday will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

The King, Queen, and Prince/Princess of the Lanes is sponsored by MARPAC and organized by the Saipan Bowling Association.

ALL SCHOOL

From Page 28

ementary School, Whispering Palms, Tanapag Elementary School, and San Antonio Elementary School.

Hopwood Junior High School, Tinian Junior High School, Saipan International School, Whispering Palms School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Tinian High School make up the high school division.

The All Schools Championships kicks off with 800m race for all age groups at 5:30pm. The opening ceremony will follow 30 minutes later at 6pm.

The 60m race for all age groups and the U14 and U16 discus throw start at 6:30pm, while the 1,500m and 4x400m relay for all age groups follow at 7pm and 7:45pm, respectively.

Day 2 will have the long jump (5pm), 3,000m (5:30pm), shot put (6pm), 100m (6pm), javelin (6:30pm), 200m (6:40pm), and 4x100m relay on tap, while the final day of the All Schools will see competitions in the softball throw (5:30pm), 400m (6pm), and mix medley relay (6:40pm).

The awards ceremony at 7:30pm concludes the 2012 All Schools Championships.

NMA would like to thank the event's major sponsors and contributors, namely the Public School System and McDonald's Saipan as well as teachers, the coaches, parents, volunteers, and most specifically the student athletes for the zest and passion they demonstrated during the six weeks of competition.

MAYWEATHER

From Page 28

ing history. But, with jail time coming up for a domestic abuse charge, there will be plenty of time for reflection about his future

"I don't know where we're going to go from here because we basically have fought everybody in this sport," Mayweather said. "I don't have to fight if I don't want to."

Indeed, Mayweather hinted of retirement following his tough battle with Cotto, which ended with Mayweather claiming a piece of the 154-pound title with a unanimous decision. But there's huge money still to be made, and he's a fighter who burns through cash with a Money Team entourage that seems to grow with each fight.

Unlike most of his fights, though, Mayweather looked like he had been in a fight after beating Cotto. He had welts under his both eyes and he spoke deliberately, like a fighter who was exhausted by the effort needed to capture the 43rd win of his unblemished career.

He could have danced about and beaten Cotto without taking the most punishment of his career, Mayweather insisted. But he wanted to give fans a good show, and make them happy they spent $69.95 on pay-per-view to see him fight.

Having Justin Bieber and 50 Cent accompany him into the ring was entertaining, sure. But the action in the ring was even better.

"Things happened tonight and we both had to fight. But the main thing is that we got the victory," Mayweather said. "The fans were happy. It's about impressing fans and giving them what they want to see."

The fans did enjoy it, though it was a strange strategy for the normally defensively oriented Mayweather, who said a few days before the fight that he wasn't going to get into any brawls in the ring because he was worried about his future health. Both fighters paid a price for this brawl, with Cotto going to a local hospital for examination instead of attending the post-fight press conference.

They traded punches for 12 rounds without taking a second off, and the sellout crowd at the MGM Grand arena stood and cheered most of the way. Mayweather was the sharper and cleaner puncher, but Cotto had his moments, too, landing some big shots to Mayweather's head and body.

Though Mayweather ended up winning easily on all three ringside scorecards, the fight was in doubt in the middle rounds and he never really dominated until he caught Cotto with an uppercut that buckled his knees in the final round.

"You're a hell of a champion," Mayweather told Cotto in the ring afterward. "You're the toughest guy I ever fought."

Most in boxing figure Pacquiao would be even tougher for Mayweather, which might be the reason he seems to want no part of him. Mayweather said before the fight he believes Pacquiao used steroids to bulk up and it would be dangerous to fight him, though he has offered no proof of his claims and is being sued by Pacquiao for defamation.

Afterward, Mayweather said the fight wouldn't be happening because Pacquiao is tied to promoter Bob Arum and he doesn't want to deal with Arum. He said he offered Pacquiao $40 million to fight—with $20 million wired to him within 24 hours of accepting—and was turned down. The fight could easily make each man much more than that, but Mayweather believes he is the true attraction and won't agree to split the proceeds 50-50 with Pacquiao.

Mayweather's more immediate future is a bigger worry for him than a Pacquiao fight. He's going to be spending much of the summer in a jail cell for his no contest plea to domestic abuse stemming from a fight with the mother of his children. It will be the first long jail stretch for Mayweather, who has a history of such charges over the years.

He didn't feel much like talking about it after the fight, preferring instead to highlight his contributions to charity and some vague plans to help hungry and homeless people. Still, he acknowledged that the impending move from his multimillion-dollar mansion to a spartan cell was weighing on him.

"The only thing it can do is make me stronger as a person," Mayweather said. "When it comes to June 1, I have to accept it like a man."

On this night he was certainly man enough, putting on a show that even his detractors had to admire. The knock on Mayweather has long been that, though he's a masterful boxer, he often fought too defensively to excite fight fans and was seldom worth the money they put out to watch him in their living rooms.

Against Cotto he fought, and fought hard. He beat a brawler, and he beat him at his own game.

Aside from the punishment that showed on his face, the night was a huge success for Mayweather and his many minions. Though he hinted at retirement, few in boxing doubt that he will be back in the ring, if only because the money is so big he can't afford not to be.

Who knows, if jail does indeed make him stronger, maybe he'll even be up to taking on Pacquiao.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	22	14	.611	–
Tampa Bay	22	14	.611	–
New York	20	15	.571	1 1/2
Toronto	19	17	.528	3
Boston	16	19	.457	5 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	19	16	.543	–
Detroit	17	18	.486	2
Chicago	17	19	.472	2 1/2
Kansas City	14	20	.412	4 1/2
Minnesota	10	25	.286	9

West Division

Texas	23	13	.639	–
Oakland	19	17	.528	4
Seattle	16	21	.432	7 1/2
Los Angeles	15	21	.417	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	22	13	.629	–
Washington	21	13	.618	1/2
New York	19	15	.559	2 1/2
Miami	18	16	.529	3 1/2
Philadelphia	16	19	.457	6

Central Division

St. Louis	20	14	.588	–
Cincinnati	17	16	.515	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	16	18	.471	4
Houston	15	19	.441	5
Milwaukee	15	19	.441	5
Chicago	14	20	.412	6

West Division

Los Angeles	23	11	.676	–
San Francisco	17	17	.500	6
Arizona	15	20	.429	8 1/2
Colorado	13	20	.394	9 1/2
San Diego	12	23	.343	11 1/2

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	6	70	34	187	31.2
Anthony, NYK	5	52	31	139	27.8
James, MIA	5	43	46	139	27.8
Nowitzki, DAL	4	34	38	107	26.8
Durant, OKC	4	35	27	106	26.5
Westbrook, OKC	4	34	17	89	22.3
Granger, IND	5	40	13	107	21.4
Pierce, BOS	6	42	34	127	21.2
Parker, SAN	4	30	23	84	21.0
Wade, MIA	5	43	17	105	21.0
Paul, LAC	6	42	32	124	20.7
Griffin, LAC	6	45	28	118	19.7
Gay, MEM	6	41	28	114	19.0
Davis, ORL	5	39	17	95	19.0
Garnett, BOS	6	45	22	112	18.7
Harden, OKC	4	20	27	73	18.3
Lawson, DEN	6	45	12	109	18.2
Holiday, PHL	6	39	22	109	18.2
J. Johnson, ATL	6	38	18	103	17.2

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Ibaka, OKC	20	31	.645
Bynum, LAL	39	69	.565
Griffin, LAC	45	80	.563
Stoudemire, NYK	20	36	.556
Collison, IND	19	35	.543
Hibbert, IND	23	43	.535
Jefferson, UTA	36	68	.529
Faried, DEN	29	55	.527
Hawes, PHL	27	52	.519
Gasol, MEM	30	58	.517

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Smith, ATL	5	10	58	68	13.6
Bynum, LAL	6	21	47	68	11.3
Millsap, UTA	4	17	27	44	11.0
Hibbert, IND	5	22	32	54	10.8
Garnett, BOS	6	9	54	63	10.5
Faried, DEN	6	21	39	60	10.0
Boozer, CHI	6	10	49	59	9.8
West, IND	5	10	38	48	9.6
Randolph, MEM	6	22	35	57	9.5
Favors, UTA	4	14	24	38	9.5

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	5	59	11.8
Paul, LAC	6	46	7.7
Conley, MEM	6	45	7.5
Nelson, ORL	5	33	6.6
Parker, SAN	4	26	6.5
Lawson, DEN	6	36	6.0
Kidd, DAL	4	24	6.0
Miller, DEN	6	34	5.7
James, MIA	5	28	5.6
Watson, CHI	6	33	5.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rollers Basketball Club U25 Tournament

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saints' Luizi Reyes drives to the hoop against the Runnin' Rebels during their semifinal game in the Rollers Basketball Club U25 Tournament last April 30 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Runnin' Rebels pose for a team photo with their runner-up trophy after the conclusion of the Rollers Basketball Club U25 Tournament last May 8.

Runnin' Rebels' Trevor Ogumoro weighs his options on a fastbreak from inside the key with one Saints' defender to beat.

Saints' Wens Namelo prepares for liftoff from the elbow against the Runnin' Rebels during their April 30 game.

Runnin' Rebels Ed Camacho double pumps as he swoops in for a layup against the Runnin' Rebels.

Runnin' Rebels' Fred Litulumar, right, absorbs a hard foul by Saints' Wens Namelo down low in the post.

Saints' Luizi Reyes, left, looks for an outlet pass, while being trapped in the corner by Runnin' Rebels' Ed Camacho, behind, and Ben Lisua.

Sanits' Wens Namelo streaks through the lane for a bucket against the Runnin' Rebels.

Lester, Nava carry Red Sox past Mariners

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Sports

76ers even series with 82-81 win over Celts

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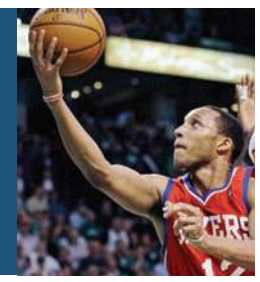

Angels, Ol'Aces notch wins in SML

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The St. Michael's Medical Response-Angels and the Ol'Aces grinded out a couple of comeback wins in this past week's Saipan Major League Baseball Association opening round matchups held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Angels ran down the D9-ers in the fifth inning and rode off into the sunset on Monday, while the Ol'Aces clawed back and forth with the IP&E Fielders, but came away the victors, 14-8, after a pair of late hour four-run bursts last Wednesday.

Both the Angels and the Ol'Aces currently share identical win-loss records of 3-1 and are now in a four-way tie for first place in the standings with the Northern Yankees and the Tan Holdings Brewers. The Fielders (2-4), Masters (1-3), and D-9ers (0-4) make up the rest of the field.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Angels' Nunu Kapileo rears back for a big swing against the D9-ers during their SML game last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Angels 11, D-9ers 7

The D-9ers darted out to an early 4-1 lead after the first inning off a two-RBI base smash by Ben Mesa and an RBI single by Chad Atalig.

Angels' Pat Alepuyo busted a double that scored John Reyes to get one back in the bottom half and the squad held their opponents to just one run before leaving them with the bases loaded in the top of the second inning.

Angels' Nunu Kapileo then whistled a double to left field to make it, 3-5, in the bottom frame.

The D-9ers shrugged it off for a second and put their blinders on for a run in the fourth from another base rip by Mesa. The team then worked around another run in the fifth from Andave Camacho who bashed a double and found his own way home.

Trailing, 3-7, coming into the bottom of the fifth, the Angels rallied back to tie the match off three hits, an error, a sacrifice fly, and an interference call during a run down at the plate.

Angels' John Reyes led off the inning with a base knock and touched all four with some crafty base running.

T.J. Cruz and third batter Pat Alepuyo also reached on errors and Kyle Kaipat drove in the former before the tail runner was caught out of position as he rounded third base.

D-9ers first baseman John Acosta ran clear across the diamond and put Alepuyo in a run-down situation, but with a handful of players running over to

See **ANGELS** on **Page 26**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Raphael Zapanta, right, and Ron Cal are all smiles after winning the 2012 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament for May last weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Raphael, Ron win May roll-off

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Youngster Raphael Zapanta and veteran kegler Ron Cal won their respective men's and women's roll-offs last weekend to top the May Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

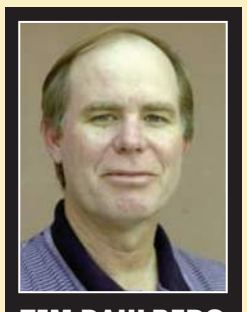
Zapanta's first victory in the 2012 monthly competition was built around three 200-plus pinfalls in Day 2 of the roll-off last Sunday.

The Saipan Southern High School student, who graduated to the men's division despite still being eligible for the youth division, rolled a four-game series of 864.

The youngest son of bowling organizers Ross and Gigi

See **RAPHAEL** on **Page 26**

Mayweather impressive, still shuns Pacquiao



TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Floyd Mayweather Jr. was getting ready to make his ring walk about the time Manny Pacquiao arrived at Los Angeles International Airport on Philippine Airlines Flight 102. He'll be occupying a cell at the Clark County Detention Center by the time Pacquiao makes his way to this gambling city for his June 9 fight with Timothy Bradley.

The two are seemingly destined never to be in the same spot at the same time. Certainly not in the ring, something Mayweather made clear Saturday night after taking on Miguel Cotto in a bruising fight that, if not his best, was certainly among his most exciting.

"The Pacquiao-Mayweather fight is not going to happen," Mayweather said. "It's not my fault."

More on that later, though Mayweather could be called out for using some convoluted logic about why the fight won't happen. Suffice it to say he believes he's in the driver's seat for any mega-fight, and is both suspicious of Pacquiao and unwilling to take equal money for the bout.

After making a minimum $32 million in an impressive performance Saturday night against Cotto, Mayweather could be excused for dismissing what would be the richest fight in box-

See **MAYWEATHER** on **Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The three-day PSS/McDonald's 9th Annual All Schools Track and Field Championships gets off and running today at the Oleai Sports Complex.

All School Championships starts today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Commonwealth's future track and field stars get to show their speed, strength, and endurance beginning today with the opening of the three-day PSS/McDonald's 9th Annual All Schools Track and Field Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The organizing Northern Marianas Athletics said the 2012 edition of the All Schools Track and Field Championships saw the first ever-elementary zone qualifiers (A, B, and C) with a record 489 students from 18 schools, both from the public and private schools with participants ranging in age from 5 to 18 years old.

Participating schools in the elementary division include William S. Reyes Elementary School, Saipan Community School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Saipan International School, Kagman Elementary School, Oleai El-

See **ALL SCHOOL** on **Page 26**